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'ARAFAT CHAIRS PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JN241645Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a meeting in Beirut today under brother leader Abu 'Ammar and discussed the latest developments [words indistinct]. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar explained to the committee the results of his talks in Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, brother Abu 'Ammar arrived in Beirut yesterday evening following a 2-day official visit to Saudi Arabia during which he held important talks with King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and senior Saudi officials.

Our radio correspondent has learned that the talks were very cordial and that, during the talks, King Khalid stressed the firm Saudi stand toward the Palestinian people and their just cause, since it is the basic issue for Saudi Arabia and the Arab nation. Brother Abu 'Ammar thanked King Khalid for this committed stand on the Palestinian issue, particularly the Saudi stand on the Jerusalem question.

During his visit to Saudi Arabia, brother Abu 'Ammar held a series of talks with Crown Prince Fahd, deputy prime minister. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by brother Abu as-Sa'id, while on the Saudi side it was attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and Dr Rashad Far'un, special adviser to King Khalid. The meeting dealt with all current issues and developments in the region. Prince Fahd stressed the firm Saudi stand toward the Palestinian question, the Palestinian people and their armed revolution. He also stressed adherence to the resolutions of the two Arab summit conferences in Rabat and Algiers.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also held another round of meetings with Prince Salman, governor of Riyadh; Interior Minister Prince Nayif; the popular committee; and the Palestinian brothers working in Saudi Arabia.

'ARAFAT RECEIVED MOROCCAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

JN241555Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar today received (Boubeker Mansouri), Moroccan charge d'affaires in Beirut. Our radio correspondent has learned that at the meeting Abu 'Ammar was handed a letter from King Hassan on the developments of the current situation and Arab solidarity. The Moroccan charge d'affaires was also handed a special message from brother Abu 'Ammar to King Hassan on the latest developments of the Palestinian issue.

ABU IYAD DENIES REPORT ON ARMS TO LEBANON

NC250842Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0808 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 25 January--Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, the number two man in the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah, has categorically denied the Lebanese isolationist leaders' statement that large arms consignments have been unloaded at the Lebanese port of Tyre. In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB published today, Abu Iyad says that these allegations are aimed at exploding once again the conflict in Lebanon and they only serve the interests of those spreading such allegations. He said that the Lebanese authorities know the facts and they also know that these allegations are false. He also said that the Arab peace-keeping forces are supervising and controlling Lebanese ports and that these forces will prevent any ships carrying arms and ammunition from entering the territorial waters of Lebanon.

RIYAD RECEIVES LETTER FROM SOMALI PRESIDENT

NC211546Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1417 GMT 21 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 January--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad today sent letters to the heads of the Arab states to include the text of the letter he received today from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre in which he draws attention to the fact that the danger in the Horn of Africa no longer threatens Somalia alone but also threatens the security of the Arab area and the African Continent and the security and peace of the world. In his letter, the Arab League secretary general requests the Arab leaders to follow up this question in accordance with the resolutions the Arab League Council adopted during its session last September. These resolutions support Somalia in its stand and call on the Arab League secretary general and the OAU secretary general to act to avert the dangers of foreign interference and to settle the dispute between Somalia and Ethiopia peacefully.

Mahmud Riyad has also sent a cable to OAU Secretary General William Eteki asking him to give the Arab League the results of the activities of the OAU conciliation committee and to submit his own proposals on cooperation between the Arab League and the OAU to avert the dangers of foreign interference in the Horn of Africa and work for the peaceful settlement of the dispute.

The following is the text of the letter the Arab League secretary general received from the Somali president:

Mr Mahmud Riyad, Arab League secretary general: I feel that it is my duty to acquaint you with the explosive situation in the area. Matters are worsening. They constitute a danger threatening not only the existence of the Somali Democratic Republic but also the security of the Arab area and the African Continent and the peace and security of the world. There is no need to mention again the direct and the octopuslike roles the Soviet Union and its allies are playing in the escalation of the attack against the national liberation movements and in inundating the area with large quantities of arms to crush these movements and consequently occupy the Somali Democratic Republic.

As a result of the setbacks which they have suffered and their failure to implement their program, the Soviet, Cuban and Warsaw Pact forces are planning to invade the Somali Democratic Republic from the Red Sea so as to isolate certain areas and occupy the strategic ports of Berbera and (?Zeila) and the city of Hargeisa and at the same time to launch a land and air attack on the western and southern areas. We have definite information that this plan will be implemented in the near future. If this plan is not foiled, it will lead to the occupation of the Somali Democratic Republic. This would constitute a destructive danger to peace and stability in this vital area of the world.

I consider it necessary to inform you of these developments. I am fully confident that you will spare no efforts to prevent the implementation of this plan for the sake of the interests of the Arab nation. I kindly request that you circulate this letter to all heads of the Arab states. My sincerest greetings and best wishes.

KUWAIT

AMIR RECEIVES SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER

NC241134Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1056 GMT 24 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 24 January--Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of Kuwait, this morning received Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who conveyed to him a message from King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, ruler of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi foreign minister held discussions with Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad which included a comprehensive review of the current Arab situation in order to consolidate Arab ranks and eliminate Arab differences preparatory to adopting a unified Arab strategy to confront the current situation.

Saudi Foreign Minister Departs

NC241135Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 24 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 24 January--Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Kuwait this afternoon after a brief visit lasting several hours. He was seen off at the airport by Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE REPORTEDLY SOUGHT

NC210855Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 21 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 January--Citing diplomatic sources in Kuwait, the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today reports that Kuwait is seeking to convene a comprehensive Arab summit conference early next month in order to coordinate Arab stands and restore Arab solidarity.

The paper says that Kuwait will contact a number of Arab kings and presidents to draw up the final formula for the next Arab move that will lead to complete unity and solidarity. The paper says that Saudi Arabia will also carry out contacts in support of the Kuwaiti contacts to bolster the inclination to hold an Arab meeting as soon as possible.

The paper adds that the holding of an Arab summit conference will head the topics to be discussed and coordinated during the meeting which the Saudi and Kuwaiti foreign ministers will hold within the next few days.

AL-WATAN CALLS FOR LIBERATION BY FORCE

NC250857Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0812 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 25 January--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN today calls upon the Arab steadfastness front to plan for the liberation of Arab territories by force, because this is the only option left now that it has become clear that Israel is determined to continue its occupation of Arab territories. The paper also calls on the Arab steadfastness front to arm the people, to promote a democratic way of life in their states, to make war economy preparations and to consolidate their national and international alliances to achieve this policy.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM REPORTS CONSCRIPTION TO BEGIN

JN202025Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait--Kuwaiti Defense Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah has stated that the new conscription law will be introduced in Kuwait in March.

The law will apply to all citizens aged 18 to 20. In a statement to the newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, published today, the Kuwaiti defense minister said that no one affected by this law will be exempt from military service.

QATAR

U.S. URGED TO STOP ARMS SUPPLY TO ISRAEL

JN241840Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1635 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 24 January--The amir of the State of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al Thani, today received the ambassador of the United States, Mr Andrew Killgore, and the ambassador of the United Kingdom, Mr Colin Brant. QNA has learned that the two meetings took place at the request of his highness the amir of the State of Qatar. His highness handed the two ambassadors messages to U.S. President Jimmy Carter and British Prime Minister James Callaghan.

The two letters contain the opinion of the State of Qatar on the extremely grave current situation in the Middle East following the suspension of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, on which the entire international community attached great hopes for results leading to the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace in the region, in accordance with the two basic principles approved by international law, the UN charter, the UN resolutions, and, in fact, with the declared position of all the countries of the world. These two principles are 1) the illegitimacy of the occupation of other people's territory through war and, consequently, the necessity for complete withdrawal from all the territories which Israel occupied in 1967, since all these territories, without exception, were occupied through war in that year; and 2) the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and to establish their state on their land. People consider the right of self-determination to be the most important and fundamental of human rights. President Carter is currently in the vanguard of the free world, which is persistently calling for the acknowledgment of this right.

His highness the amir stressed four facts which are indisputable:

1. The Arabs have done all they can for the sake of peace inside and outside the United Nations in fulfillment of their principles as a peace-loving nation and in response to the wish of the international community, which demands peace.

2. Israel has shown unparalleled intransigence and arrogance and has flouted all known principles, values and rules in a manner unprecedented in history, showing contempt not only for the Arab nation and its legitimate rights but also for the wish and the rights of the entire international community, the owner of those rights, values and rules.

3. This international tragedy from which mankind is suffering as never before is due to the only power which Israel has, the power of the American arms pouring into it.

4. The grave situation resulting from Israel's defiance of the international community and its disregard of international will urgently calls for the big powers, which assume the biggest responsibility in insuring the observance of international legitimacy and the maintenance of world peace and security, to adopt an immediate firm and positive stand which will make Israel succumb to the international will. Among the urgent steps which can be taken in this respect is the suspension of the flow of American arms to Israel to force it to abandon its aggressive stand which exposes the world to grave dangers and pushes it to the edge of the abyss.

His highness the amir concluded by asserting that the Arab nation is unanimously determined to defend its legitimate rights and to put an end to the occupation with all the means in its power and regardless of the costs and sacrifices.

SAUDI ARABIA

SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE LEAVES RIYADH

NC241148Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 24 January--Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre and the delegation accompanying him left Riyadh at 1015 today at the end of a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. He was seen off by Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister.

SAUDIS REPORTEDLY DISPLEASED WITH AS-SADAT

LD242332Y London AL-MANAR in Arabic 21 Jan 78 p 1 LD

[Text] London, AL-MANAR--Well-informed diplomatic sources said that Saudi Arabia is strongly displeased with President as-Sadat for involving the shah of Iran in the process of the Middle East settlement.

The sources said that Riyadh regards As-Sadat's action as a kind of threat and blackmail by the Egyptian president against Saudi Arabia.

The sources point out that Saudi displeasure with As-Sadat because of his attitude toward Iran is equal to its displeasure with his trip to Jerusalem. Saudi Arabia is exerting great efforts to keep Iran out of the Arab sphere of influence, particularly in the gulf, while As-Sadat has opened a wide door for it through the Middle East crisis.

The sources add that As-Sadat does not conceal his displeasure with Saudi Arabia and his annoyance with its officials. He often makes remarks in private which betray his estrangement from them.

YEMEN--PDRY

SAHARAN INFORMATION MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

LD200650Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] The PDRY and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] have agreed on the need to exchange contacts and intensify efforts to strengthen the role of the nationalist and progressive forces in the Arab arena to enable them to play their part against the reactionary, Zionist and imperialist schemes. The two countries emphasized this in a press statement issued today at the end of the visit to the PDRY by SDAR Information Minister Mohamed Salim Ould Malek from 12 to 17 January. The statement stressed the importance of the unity of the nationalist and progressive forces and of the implementation of the resolutions of the Tripoli conference and the Arab people's congress in order to foil all the designs against the struggle of the Arab people.

The statement said that the SDAR delegation had been received by brother Salim Rubay'i Ali, assistant secretary general of the Unified Political Organization-National Front [UPONF] Central Committee and Presidential Council chairman, and brother Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd, information minister. During the meeting, UPONF and the government of the revolution confirmed their support for the just struggle of the Saharan people against foreign interference in all its forms.

OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS TO VISIT FOREIGN COUNTRIES

NC2307477Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 23 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 January--AL-AKHBAR reports today that President Anwar as-Sadat has decided to send official and parliamentary delegations to the United States, Europe and the Arab and African states at the start of an intensive diplomatic campaign. Egypt has decided to launch this campaign to explain to all world leaders the reality of the Israeli position, which is hampering peace and foiling all international efforts in support of the Egyptian peace initiative.

The paper says that Vice President Husni Mubarak will head the Egyptian delegation to the Arab capitals and some African capitals. He will carry messages from President as-Sadat to the heads of these states, explaining all the developments in the situation in the peace talks and Egypt's strategy in the next stage to confront the Israeli position, which is clearly seeking land and not peace.

People's Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i will head a parliamentary delegation to the United States. The delegation will include Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and the head of the Egyptian UN delegation, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. The delegation will meet with U.S. President Jimmy Carter and with members of the U.S. Congress to explain Egypt's views on U.S. responsibility toward the establishment of peace in this important stage.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will head a delegation to Europe. He will carry messages from President as-Sadat to French President Giscard d'Estaing, British Prime Minister James Callaghan, FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, and a number of other European leaders.

AL-AKHBAR says that measures are currently being taken to choose the members of these three delegations and to contact the capitals of the relevant states to set the dates for the visits and meetings. The date of the departure of these delegations will be decided very soon.

AMBASSADORS TO BE BRIEFED ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

NC2510117Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0805 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 January--AL-AHRAM today reports that following constant consultations between President as-Sadat and Vice President Husni Mubarak and Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, Egypt has prepared its answer to the declaration of principles which the United States proposed during the meeting between President Anwar as-Sadat and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Cairo at the end of last week.

The paper says that President as-Sadat briefed U.S. Ambassador to Cairo Hermann Eilts of this reply during their meeting yesterday. The paper adds that the observations which Egypt made on the U.S. declaration of principles draft are summed up in two points:

1. It clearly includes the subject of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, connecting this to the principle of inadmissibility of occupation of territory by force.

2. It acknowledges the complete political rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with U.S. President Jimmy Carter's statement in Aswan.

President Carter stressed the necessity of Palestinian participation in determing their future, which is the minimum condition for satisfying the principle of the right of self-determination, and for dealing with all political and humanitarian aspects of the Palestine question.

Meanwhile, it has been decided that Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali, in implementation of President as-Sadat's directives, will meet with the ambassadors of the countries accredited in Cairo beginning tomorrow. They will first meet with the ambassadors of the West European states, the Arab and African states and then the Latin American and nonalined states.

The two ministers will inform the ambassadors of Egypt's desire for peace and will brief them on the proposals which Egypt has made on the declaration of principles for a comprehensive solution. They will also acquaint the ambassadors with the obstacles confronted in implementing this and with the Israeli stand regarding the subject of settlements and the Israeli denial of the rights of the Palestinian people. They will inform the ambassadors of the contacts which took place with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and U.S. President Carter within the context of the participation of the international community in assuming its responsibility in promoting a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East problem.

AL-AHRAM COMMENTS ON EGYPT'S POLITICAL MOVES

NC2408377 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 24 Jan 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 24 January--AL-AHRAM comments on the political move which Cairo will begin in the next few days to bring Arab and world capitals face to face with their responsibilities in the critical historical circumstances through which the Middle East crisis is passing and before the peace efforts reach a deadlock as a result of the arrogance and conceit of the Israeli side. The paper says that so far the Israeli side has not proved that it has risen to the level of the important initiative or realized the gravity of playing with fire.

The paper stresses that in its international move Egypt is proceeding with an Egyptian initiative; it is an initiative involving the conscience of the whole world. The paper notes the importance of the U.S. and European roles in this respect. On the U.S. role, the paper says that if the U.S. administration of President Jimmy Carter has adopted a positive stand toward supporting Egypt economically, it remains for this administration to realize that its basic interests in the area lie not only in Israel but also in the Arab territories. Therefore, the United States must shoulder its responsibility toward all those threatening world peace and despising the principles of human rights.

Regarding Egypt's move at the Arab level, AL-AHRAM affirms that Egypt is working from a position which Egypt willingly shouldered throughout years of confrontation with the Israeli enemy. It was Egypt which waged the October war and it was Egypt which took the initiative for a just peace and for restoring the Arab rights, a stand removed from all political immaturity which is devoid of responsibility and commitment.

AL-AHRAM concludes that Egypt will proceed with its plan resolutely, realizing the depth of the responsibility and the trust of the Arab commitment. Those who are opposing the peoples of the whole world by causing a stumbling block to peace and justice must bear the consequences of their action. Life can no longer accept bargaining or haggling. It will be either security and prosperity for all or it will be everyone for himself. Egypt is well aware of the dimenions of its own path.

AL-AKHBAR CRITICIZES BEGIN'S KNESSET SPEECH

NC240934Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 24 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 January--Cairo's newspapers today wage a new campaign against Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in view of his speech in the Israeli Knesset yesterday, in which he repeated his previous claims regarding Israel's demands for establishing peace in the area.

AL-AKHBAR, which publishes the text of Begin's speech, notes Begin's statement that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat pledged to Begin at a meeting between them that no Egyptian soldier would cross the Mitla and Jiddi passes in Sinai once a peace agreement was signed and that Begin was surprised that Egyptian War Minister General al-Jamasi presented Weizman with a plan to the contrary.

The paper expresses regret that the Israeli prime minister plays with words and says that although ethics preclude disclosing secret talks about the negotiations unless the two sides agree to do so, it will relate the facts since Begin himself has revealed these more than once.

The paper says that President as-Sadat told Begin at this meeting that the main body of the Egyptian Armed Forces would not go east of the Mitla and Jiddi passes and that the Egyptian president made this promise on the basis of Egypt's sincere desire to assure Israel that their peaceful intentions were free from any hostility.

AL-AKHBAR says that President Anwar as-Sadat's promise meant that the Egyptian forces will be present in the passes and east of the passes, not west of the passes as Begin claims. But Begin, as has happened on more than one previous occasion, wants to cite statements and pledges never made.

The paper notes that in order to pressure Israel about its security, the Egyptian side to the military discussions had proposed the following:

1. A demilitarized zone along both sides of the border between us and Israel.
2. Then, a reduced armament area which will not include heavy arms such as artillery and tanks.
3. Then, the positioning of our armed forces east of the passes.

AL-AKHBAR says that Egypt proposed the formation of a joint military committee to meet alternately in Al-'Arish and in Beersheba to completely and constantly supervise the situation and prevent being surprised due to an error.

The paper stresses that Egypt will not retract its promise and commitment because it is sincerely and honestly dealing with the peace question. However, Begin continues his manner of maneuvering, changing facts and declaring untrue commitments which he interprets according to his whims--whims of expansion and domination. There will be no peace with expansion and domination.

AL-AKHBAR ON BEGIN STATEMENTS, ISRAELI-ARAB REJECTIONISTS

LD250616Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 24 Jan 78 LD

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 January--In tomorrow's issues Cairo papers highlight the White House statement following the meeting between President Carter and Cyrus Vance in which the U.S. President expressed the hope that there would be a return to the pursuit of quiet diplomacy in the Middle East. The papers point to what the statement says regarding President Carter and his secretary of state's insistence on the need to continue the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations at the Military Committee.

The papers say that during their meeting today President Anwar as-Sadat conveyed Egypt's comments on the U.S. draft declaration of principles to U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts.

The paper also report that Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Alfred Atherton is continuing his consultations with Israeli officials in Jerusalem in order to bridge the gap between Egypt and Israel over the declaration of principles for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem.

AL-AKHBAR comments on Menahem Begin's accusations of anti-Semitism against Egyptian journalists because these journalists criticized his twisted policies and his aggressive attitude aimed at undermining the principles of peace. The paper says the fact that Begin is resorting to accusations of anti-Semitism is surpising because the whole world knows that the Arabs, including the Egyptians, are Semites and therefore could not be anti-Semitic.

The paper says: Begin's claim did not and will not find adherents because Egypt itself is Semitic and, as the whole world can witness, it is a country that throughout its history has not known racial discrimination. Jews living in Egypt enjoyed security as they never did in any other country. By making such a claim, the paper continues, Begin has shown that he capitalizes on old slogans and that mentally he still lives in an atmosphere of aggression. While we advocate the peace initiative, he speaks a hostile language. This is Begin's complex--a complex he has never gotten rid of. If Begin wants peace and cares for the principles of peace he must first free himself of this hostile complex and get rid of this old mentality.

In another article discussing the Middle East situation, AL-AKHBAR says that the positions of the Arab rejectionist front and of the Israeli rejectionist front agree on destroying the peace initiative and blocking all opportunities for peace. This agreement constitutes a strong link between the attitudes of both sides despite the war of words between them.

The paper says that practical unity of objectives and attitudes between ostensibly conflicting parties is cometimes stronger than all official alliances. What matters is the effect of such stands and actions on the course of events. The paper says that agreement to plant mines on the path of the peace initiative is such that both fronts become identical, which in fact makes them both one front called the Arab-Israeli rejectionist front.

The paper then refers to President as-Sadat's recent speech in which he described Israel's stand as agressive and provocative and seeking to impose unacceptable terms--the speech which the rejectionist radios and press described as capitulatory.

The paper says that the obstacles that Israel is setting up in order to hinder the success of the Egyptian negotiations seem to be intended to confirm the soundness of the Arab rejectionists in refusing to negotiate with Israel. Likewise, the war of words being waged by the Arab rejectionists seems to confirm Israel's alleged fear for its security and its occupation of territories.

In conclusion, the paper says: This is a strange unity--strange in stands, objectives and aspirations, and particularly the great aspiration of the parties to the front to abort President as-Sadat's initiative.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH ROMANIA SIGNED 25 JAN

NC251108Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 January--A new agreement for educational, scientific and cultural cooperation was signed today between Egypt and Romania. The agreement was signed for Egypt by Ambassador Sa'd 'Afrah, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, and for Romania by Romanian Ambassador to Egypt Petru Burlacu.

The new agreement will replace the old cultural agreement signed in 1957 which is incompatible with the increasing volume of contacts between the two countries. It includes the two countries in the fields of edication, higher education, scientific research, culture, arts, information, health, tourism and sports.

WAR MINISTER AL-JAMASI VISITS ARMED FORCES UNITS

NC241535Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, has spent 2 days visiting formations and units of the armed forces in the areas of Port Said, Ismailia and Suez. He held four meetings in which he spoke to the commanders, officers and soldiers about the dimensions of the present situation and its possibilities. The commander in chief was accompanied on this tour by the commanders of the 2d and 3d armies.

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUES CAIRO VISIT

LD241616Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jan 78 LD/Ea

[Summary] Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, now in Cairo, today delivered a letter from chairman of the Command Council, to President as-Sadat on the current Arab situation. He also saw Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and conveyed to him a verbal message from 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister of the YAR.

Later, Minister al-Asnaj saw Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and foreign minister of Sudan, with whom he discussed bilateral relations. According to news agency reports, they agreed that the YAR-Sudanese coordination committee should hold its next meeting in San'a' in March.

Al-Asnaj also met with Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad and Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Kamil, and invited them to San'a' for talks on the Arab situation.

EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETS

Sudanese Delegation Arrives

NC221803Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1742 GMT 22 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 January--Sudanese Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr arrived in Cairo this afternoon at the head of a 16-member delegation, which includes production and services ministers, for a 5-day visit to attend the meetings of the higher ministerial committee for Egyptian-Sudanese political and economic integration. These meetings will begin tomorrow evening and will last for 3 days.

First Session Held

NC232011Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] The meetings of the higher ministerial committee for economic coordination between Egypt and Sudan opened this evening. Prime Minister Mamduh Salim headed the Egyptian side and Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr headed the Sudanese side.

The committee will debate the reports of the subcommittees on the projects which are being implemented and the action programs for the next stage in accordance with the priority and importance of the projects included in these programs. The funds required for the completion of the projects in progress, the projects which have been studied and the projects which require allocations before the possibility of their implementation and their usefulness can be studied will be assessed. Foremost of these projects are those pertaining to agriculture, agricultural industrialization, food production and communications.

The committee will also discuss the recommendations of the joint parliamentary conference of two people's assemblies in Egypt and Sudan regarding the establishment of an integrated region along the borders in the area of the High Dam.

Salim, Bakr Speak

LD242322Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0432 GMT 24 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The meeting of the higher ministerial committee for integration between Sudan and Egypt began in Cairo yesterday.

Opening the inaugural session, Egyptian Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, head of the Egyptian side, said the two peoples of the Nile Valley together were equal to more than half the Arab nation. Accordingly, integration between Sudan and Egypt alone meant covering half the entire length of the road leading toward the integration of the Arab nation.

Sudanese Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr then spoke. He said the volume of bilateral trade has increased to a total of 56 million pounds. Referring to the consolidation of cultural ties, he said there are now more than 10,000 Sudanese studying in Egypt.

After the speeches by the leaders of the two delegations, the meeting continued in a closed session.

Decisions Issued

NC2321052 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jan 78 NC

[Text] At its first meeting this evening, the higher committee for integration between Egypt and Sudan approved a plan permitting Egyptian and Sudanese citizens to move between the two countries using only identity cards or family cards issued by the proper authorities without any need for passports. However, procedures on residence in each country will continue to be applied in accordance with regulations agreed upon by the interior ministers of both countries. The plan also allows the citizens of both countries to transfer all the currency they need at transfer rates fixed by the central banks of each country.

The higher committee also decided to reduce by 40 percent the price of air tickets between the two countries in addition to granting youth discounts on air tickets.

The higher committee issued another decision establishing an integrated zone on the common borders between the two countries. The zone is located in Sudan's Northern Governorate and in Aswan Governorate. It also decided to form a committee to work on achieving integration in all fields and to facilitate the movement of individuals and goods. The committee will submit proposals on amendments of regulations and legislation to the higher committee.

Future Sessions Set

NC2421032 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2033 GMT 24 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 January--MENA has learned that it has been agreed to hold the next session of the Egyptian-Sudanese higher ministerial committee for political and economic integration in Alexandria next June. The session after that will be held in Khartoum in February 1979.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON WORLD BANK PRESIDENT'S VISIT

McNamara Press Conference

NC2318302 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 23 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 23 January--Robert McNamara, chairman of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, has announced that the IBRD will contribute to supporting the Egyptian economy during the coming phase. It reached this decison after becoming convinced that Egypt is serious about implementing financial and economic reforms.

In a joint press conference which he gave today with the deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni, McNamara said there has been progress clearly indicating an improvement in the deficit in the balance of payments. He added that Egypt has faithfully repaid all of its outstanding debts.

McNamara said the current economic situation in Egypt is much better than it was 4 years ago, at the time of his previous visit in 1974, and that this has prompted the IBRD to increase its aid to Egypt sixfold. Thus the loans and aid which it granted to Egypt in 1977 amounted to about $250 million compared with $40 million in 1974.

McNamara said the IBRD is willing to contribute to supporting projects for the 5-year development plan, particularly for the infrastructure projects which require huge investments, in addition to projects for replacement and renovation in the various industrial sectors.

Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni announced during the press conference that McNamara's visit to Egypt has achieved notable progress in consolidating relations between Egypt and the IBRD.

Meeting With As-Sadat

LD212222Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 21 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 21 January--Tonight President Anwar as-Sadat received Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Robert McNamara. The meeting took place in the president's office at the People's Assembly at the end of the assembly meeting at which the president made his important political speech.

The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, People's Assembly Speaker Sayyid Mar'i, Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni, and Minister of Economy and Economic Cooperation Dr Hamid as-Sayih.

Al-Qaysuni told MENA after the meeting that during his meeting with the president, McNamara lauded the progress Egypt achieved in the economic field and the improvement of the Egyptian economic situation. McNamara also praised the peace initiative and the great impact it had on international circles pointing to the economic effects it will have on the area and on the whole world.

McNamara Departure

NC231930Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1918 GMT 23 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 January--World Bank President Robert McNamara left Cairo today for Riyadh at the conclusion of a 5-day visit to Egypt during which he held talks with a number of Egyptian officials.

AL-AKHBAR URGES PLO TO RECONSIDER POSITION

LD171832Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Jan 78 p 1, 3 LD

[Musa Sabri article: "'Arafat Sends Warm Greetings to Carter"]

[Text] U.S. Congressman Paul Findley announced to the whole world that he had met with Yasir 'Arafat in Beirut and that 'Arafat has asked him to convey a message of warm greetings to President Carter. 'Arafat also proposed a plan for a Palestinian state under which the new state will remain under UN control for 5 years. 'Arafat also made other proposals to the U.S. congressman as a basis for solving the Palestine problem.

I am indeed surprised. If 'Arafat submits proposals, negotiates with a U.S. congressman, wants to submit a plan to President Carter, comes forth with alternative flexible proposals and warmly greets the U.S. role, why then this unjust stand against Egypt and its leadership as we are negotiating openly and declaring our views publicly?

Previously a member of the PLO visited me and said that the PLO is prepared to recognize Israel immediately if Israel declares acceptance of a Palestinian state. He also said that in order to allay the fears of Israel, the PLO would also accept that the new state be demilitarized for a period of 5 years.

At the Rabat conference when the PLO was seeking to obtain a decision by the conference recognizing it as the representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO men were waging an unrelenting war against King Husayn. They openly declared: "We would accept coming to an understanding with Israel but we will not come to an understanding with King Husayn."

It is now clear that the PLO is purusing two contradictory attitudes on talking in two languages--a language for the street by which it levels charges against Egypt because it is negotiating with Israel and accusing it of being involved in a plot with the United States, and another, spoken behind closed doors, in which it addresses the United States, offers proposals as a basis for negotiations, and warmly greets the role of the U.S. President.

Why this contradictory attitude? Why isn't the PLO leadership sincere in its views and attitudes and why doesn't it declare its position clearly? Why do they isolate themselves from participating in determining the future of the Palestinian people and, instead, appear before the world as having resorted to physical liquidation by assassinating those Palestinians who demand peace?

The historical opportunity is still available. The PLO leadership must reconsider its stand, rectify its Arab and Palestinian position, and shoulder its responsibility toward the people who are suffering from occupation and dispersion. The Israeli politicians, despite their different political affiliations, are seeking more gains for Israel in the negotiations; the moderates have become more extremist than Begin while Begin is trying to portray himself to the world as flexible but restricted by the opposition that accuses him of selling out.

In the meantime, we Arabs show how clever we are in creating reasons for dispute, strife, and the exchange of accusations of which only Israel would benefit.

The battle of peace requires the courage of the fighter in war. It is the courage of one who believes in what he says and is always ready to declare and defend his opinion with much confidence.

Escaping from difficult situations in the battle of peace is like turning one's back to the enemy. In October we fought for the liberation of the land and today we are fighting in the battle of peace for the same objective. Only the weapon is different. A clever leader is the one who knows what weapons we must use and when and how.

We are not operating in the dark, nor are we doing things in secret meetings. Our struggle for peace is put before the whole world. Why should an owner of rights escape confrontation if there is such a unique opportunity as that created by Egypt's initiative? The world thought it was impossible, as Secretary of State Vance said.

BRIEFS

EGYPTIAN-ERITREAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION--Cairo, 19 January--An Egyptian-Eritrean friendship association for solidarity with the Eritrean people's struggle and revolution for liberation and self-determination has been formed under Mahmud Abu Wafiyah, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt. [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jan 78 NC]

ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION RECEIVED BY AL-BAKR

JN241126Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 January--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr this afternoon received in his office in the Republican Palace the delegation of the Italian Communist Party [PCI] headed by Giancarlo Pajetta, member of the Secretariat of the PCI and official in charge of the party's foreign relations.

During the meeting, the Arab situation and current international issues were reviewed. They also discussed the existing cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the PCI and the means of developing relations in the interests of the issues for which the two parties are struggling.

The meeting was attended by Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party; 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and Comrade Zuhayr al-Qadiri, head of the Foreign Relations Office in the Ba'th Party National Command.

The Italian delegation arrived in Baghdad yesterday on a 2-day visit at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

Talks Begin

JN241136Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 January--Talks began here today between the delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party led by Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Office, and the delegation of the PCI led by Giancarlo Pajetta, member of the PCI Secretariat and official in charge of the party's foreign relations.

The Ba'th Party delegation includes 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; and Zuhayr al-Qadiri, head of the Foreign Relations Office in the Ba'th Party National Command. The Italian delegation includes Antonio (Robi), PCI Central Committee member and official in charge of foreign relations.

During the talks the two sides reviewed the current situation and the latest developments following the traitorous visit by As-Sadat to occupied Palestine. They also exchanged views on the international situation and the role played by the European parties in confronting imperialist and Zionist defiance and supporting Arab issues, particularly the Palestine question. The two sides stressed the importance of cooperation between the Arab and progressive world forces in confronting imperialist designs and plots.

AL-BAKR SENDS MESSAGE TO HYDERABAD RALLY OF SOLIDARITY

JN241445Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 January--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has stated that those who abandoned the course of Arab struggle and pan-Arab rights are responsible for the current Arab situation.

President al-Bakr specified these persons as those who chose the road of concessions and settlements and ran after the U.S. imperialist schemes, which are aimed at weakening the Arab will to struggle and at destroying the Arab ranks, and as those who were driven to make humiliating concessions, the latest of which was the treasonable trip As-Sadat paid to the occupied territory.

President al-Bakr pointed cut that the parties to the treason are alone responsible for the current Arab situation because they did not make a bold stand to study the past ard to choose the correct pan-Arab course, but continued to proceed along the wrong and unsuccessful course they have been following without learning anything from past experience.

The above was stated in the message President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr addressed to the rally of solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people, held in Hyderabad, India. The message was published today.

In his message, President al-Bakr stressed that the Palestinian Arab people's rights, which were usurped by force, terrorism and treachery in 1948, cannot be regained by defeatist methods and policies which are doomed to failure. President al-Bakr also called for the abandonment of the policy of humiliating settlement and concessions and for following the course of tough struggle based on true pan-Arab principles.

President al-Bakr said that the road to the recovery of the land and rights is clear to those who want to struggle honorably and courageously and to follow the course of struggle for liberation by mobilizing the masses, supporting the Palestinian resistance, opening the way to the resistance to wage its courageous struggle against the enemy within the occuppied territory and firmly standing against the imperialist schemes and interests.

In his message President al-Bakr pointed out the situation in the Indian Ocean, a strategic area on which imperialism has designs. He said that imperialism has designs on this area not only because of conventional strategic factors concerning the position of the Indian Ocean, but also because of factors related to the Indian Ocean's connection with the Arab region, which has enormous economic potential.

President al-Bakr called on the Indian friends to be vigilant and watchful and to keep abreast of revolutionary thoughts and principles, in order to be able to serve the national aims of the friendly Indian people.

President al-Bakr expressed his pleasure with the developing relations linking the Indian and Arab peoples in defense of their joint interests; in the struggle against imperialism, reaction and Zionism; and in the climination of all forms of backwardness. President al-Bakr said that the relations which bind us are based on pooling foraces to stand up in the fact of all colonialist plots and military bases.

Al-Bakr stressed that the Indian people's siding with the issues of the Arab nation will strengthen the relations between the two peoples. He referred to the masses' great support, manifested by the effective Indian-Arab society, in backing the uprising of our Arab people in the occupied land of Palestine and in denouncing the oppressive measures of the Zionist authorities against the Palestinian Arab people. Concluding his message, Al-Bakr expressed the hope that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Indian and Arab people will strengthen.

TALKS HELD WITH VISITING OMANI INTERIOR MINISTER

JN242150Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] Talks began tonight at the Housing Ministry betwwen Iraq and the Sultanate of Oman. The Iraqi side was headed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and housing minister, and the Omani side by Muhammad ibn Ahmad, the minister of interior.

At the outset of the talks, Ramadan welcomed the guest delegation and expressed the desire of the political leadership of the party and the revolution to strengthen cooperation between the two fraternal countries and to adopt the principle of coordination and consultation between them in the interest of the Arab people in the two countries and the central issues of the Arab nation. Ramadan stressed the importance of direct meetings between Arab brothers. He said that they are the only means to remove any obstacles preventing the development of bilateral relations and the achievement of common objectives.

The Omani interior minister, Muhammad ibn Ahmad, expressed his satisfaction with this visit, which, he said, is an expression of the sincere fraternal spirit binding the peoples in the two countries. He expressed the hope that these talks will achieve the desired results for the common interests of the two fraternal countries.

The talks reviewed bilateral relations and studied the possibility of cooperation in the commercial, economic and technological fields.

PDRY PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

JN2414477 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 January--'Ali Nasir Muhammad, PDRY prime minister, arrived in Baghdad today on an official visit to Iraq. He was received upon arrival at Baghdad airport by RCC Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn, a number of cabinet ministers and other officials.

Details of Arrival

JN2415507 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 January--Mr 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is accompanied by a delegation which includes Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Muti', Transport Minister Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Muhammad Sulayman Nasir and a number of officials.

In a statement to INA, Mr Nasir said that his visit is within the framework of strengthening the existing fraternal ties between the people of the two countries and within the current consultations and coordination among the progressive Arab forces, aimed at heightening their cohesion and solidarity against the imperialist plots.

The PDRY prime minister said that he will exchange views with Iraqi officials on current Arab issues which have cropped up after As-Sadat's visit to occupied Arab Jerusalem and his shamefaced and humiliating meetings with the Zionist enemy leaders. The situation in the Horn of Africa will also be discussed, he added.

The PDRY leader said that the imperialist and Zionist forces are now working against the most sacred Arab causes, namely, the Palestine cause and the cause of the occupied Arab territories, with the support of As-Sadat, who is running after the solutions of capitulation. He expressed his conviction that his visit to Iraq will result in strengthening the role of the progressive Arab forces.

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN2510197 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0906 GMT 25 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 January--A closed meeting was held here this morning between Saddam Husayn, RCC vice chairman, and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, PDRY prime minister.

During the meeting, Saddam Husayn and the PDRY prime minister resumed the talks they began last evening on the current Arab and international situation and on the means to strengthen and consolidate bilateral relations in the service of the Arab nation's causes.

MAURITANIAN MINISTER CONCLUDES 3-DAY VISIT

JN241505Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1332 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 January--Sidi Ould Abdallahi, Political Bureau member of the Mauritanian People's Party and minister of state for economic planning and mines, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this afternoon at the conclusion of a 3-day visit to Iraq. During the visit the Mauritanian minister held talks with Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General Dr Munif ar-Razzaz and the ministers of planning; industry and minerals and agriculture and agrarian reform. The talks dealt with the means to strengthen cooperation and friendly ties between Iraq and Mauritania.

POPULAR FORCES TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY 8 FEBRUARY

JN241500Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 January--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr will make an important political speech during the military parade of the popular forces which will take place on 8 February. In his address the president will explain the role of the popular forces and will deal with the regional and pan-Arab situation at the present stage.

The parade of popular forces will commemorate the eighth anniversary of its establishment. Fifty thousand fighters, in addition to symbolic units from district branches, will take part in the parade. The parade will be attended by delegations from the military establishments in Algeria, Cuba, Korea, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, the world liberation movements and the military attaches in Baghdad.

On another level, Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and commander in chief of the popular forces, today held a press conference in which he affirmed that the popular forces supplement and back the armed forces, which in itself is the revolution's arm on both regional and pan-Arab levels.

Ramadan said that when this popular army is developed and enlarged, it will add to the capabilities of the armed forces and prepare it to play its role outside Iraq. The organization of the popular army in Iraq, he said, stems from the long experience of the Ba'th Party in arming the people and training them and from the party's knowledge of the experience of other countries in this field. He made it clear that these countries from which we have benefited regard Iraq's experiment as distinctive and new from the point of view of training, tasks and formation, and consider the popular army an effective force which matches the military units.

Ramadan said that the units of this popular army are now available in all Iraqi regions to perform their tasks and defend the achievements of the revolution, the Iraqi frontiers and Iraqi installations. It is an armed force and a fighting force which employs exact rules for immediate response and sacrifice, he added. Ramadan pointed out that symbolic forces from the popular army in the districts of Dahuk, As-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil in northern Iraq will take part in the Baghdad military parade. The parade, he said, will show the real standard of training and armaments of the popular forces, which include Iraqi women.

KING HUSAYN SENDS MESSAGE TO SAUDI KING

JN2507417 Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 25 Jan 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman--His Majesty King Husayn has sent a message to his brother His Majesty King Khalid of Saudi Arabia. The message was delivered yesterday by Dr Nair ad-Din al-Asad, the Jordanian ambassador in Jidda to Prince Fahd, Saudi crown prince and prime minister.

KING HUSAYN RECEIVES QATARI FOREIGN MINISTER

JN2417007 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Suhaym ibn Hamad Al Thani in the Hashimiyah Palace at noon today. During the meeting, a discussion was held on the current Arab situation and fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries. The meeting was attended by Mudar Badran, prime minister and foreign minister; His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; His Excellency Staff Lt Gen Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; several senior officials; and the Qatari ambassador in Amman.

Shaykh Suhaym left Amman this afternoon following a 1-day visit. He was seen off at the airport by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim and the Qatari ambassador in Amman.

PAPER SAYS U.S. CONSIDERING EGYPTIAN ARMS REQUEST

JN2410097 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Jan 78 pp 1, 13 JN

[Excerpt] Washington--'Adnan al-Katib dispatch--AD-DUSTUR has learned from sources close to President Carter's administration that the U.S. reply to Egypt's request for arms will depend on the cooperation which Egypt shows to the U.S. efforts to revive the Israeli-Egyptian peace talks currently suspended. These sources said that U.S. officials are currently making proposals for the first arms deal involving U.S. fighters which Egypt has requested.

According to the reports of officials who are connected with the arms sale, the Carter administration is willing to allow Egypt to purchase an unspecified number of F-5A fighters next year. It is reported that the stalemate in the Egyptian-Israeli talks has increased the difficulties for the White House in making a decision concerning the Egyptian request.

RADIO CALLS UPON ARABS TO SUPPORT AS-SADAT, CLOSE RANKS

JN2219377 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Jan 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In his speech yesterday President as-Sadat said that Israel was not able to stand serious discussions about peace for longer than 1 month after which it began the process of absorbing the Egyptian initiative, emptying it of its contents and drowning it in a whirlpool of fruitless arguments. President as-Sadat made it clear that Israel demanded that the talks continue for a long time until natural relations are developed between Egypt and Israel. This means that it demanded the fruits of peace before this peace was achieved and without offering anything to achieve it. President as-Sadat said that the Arabs demanded peace for everybody in exchange for Arab rights and Arab territories while Israel presented them with peace based on the settlements which are built on occupied Arab territories.

Let us recall what His Majesty King Husayn said before the UN General Assembly in 1968, namely, that Israel cannot have peace and territories. Israel, he said, through its military strength wants to impose peace and keep the territories, something which is impossible to achieve.

What is required now from the Arab nation is for it to revise its position toward Egypt since the latter has so far been committed to territories, rights and a comprehensive solution. What is required is to encourage Egypt in its principled stand on Arab rights. This will reduce the chances for unilateral or bilateral solutions. The alternative to the failure of the Egyptian initiative should not be aggravation of the situation through negativism which does not offer any alternative or method of work. The alternative to the failure of the Egyptian initiative must be to stand firm in support of the national goals which have been agreed upon by all Arabs and which were presented by President as-Sadat to the Israel Knesset. When As-Sadat felt that Israel was maneuvering to abort these goals and bypass them, he called the negotiations off.

The opportunities for joint Arab action are now very clear. Jordan has had its say on Egypt's firm stand against the flouting of the essential and unchanging bases for any settlement. The Arab nation is now called on to back the Egyptian stand which rejects Israeli maneuvers and principles of expansion. This stems from concern for the future of the Arab cause.

President as-Sadat's initiative has shocked the Arab nation by revealing the fake Israeli allegations and demands. Zionism had succeeded in convincing the world that these demands were just. As-Sadat's initiative has changed the picture of the Arab stand on the world scene.

On the Arab level the initiative revealed the illusion under which we lived after 1970, namely, that Israel might respond to peace. This revelation of Israel's attitude is in itself an achievement which is no less than what has been achieved on the international level.

Although the doors are still open to the moves toward a just peace, these doors are also still open for building Arab strength and an Arab stand through Arab solidarity which is able to face the challenges of peace and war.

EFFORTS SEEN UNDERWAY TO UNIFY SYRIAN, IRAQI COMMANDS

JN220826Y Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 22 Jan 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Beirut--AL-AKHBAR exclusive report--Arab diplomatic sources here expect the formation of a unified Ba'th Party National Command in the near future to replace the national commands in Syria and Iraq. These sources also expect the two countries to keep their regional commands.

These sources added that the Ba'th Party commands in the two countries are now studying the record of their relations to prepare for the talks scheduled to be held soon in Algiers between representatives of the two commands.

These sources confirm that President Hafiz al-Asad is trying to end the estrangement between the two countries in order to deal with all contingencies arising from current developments in the area.

These sources point out that the party command in Baghdad is showing interest in putting an end to disputes with Damascus and that contacts are now taking place behind the scenes between officials of the countries following the recent mediation of Algerian President Houari Boumediene.

These sources add that the present contacts are paving the way for a meeting scheduled to be held in Algeria between the two commands of the Ba'th Party.

According to these sources, various aspects of the dispute between the two countries will be discussed at this meeting to achieve a complete solution to all outstanding problems preparatory to the restoration of normal relations between them.

These sources add that one of the most important topics on the agenda of the Algiers meeting will be a proposal for the unification of the commands in the two countries in one national command while keeping the regional commands in both countries.

These Arab diplomatic sources declined to reveal the party which is making this proposal but stressed that the acceptance of such a proposal will help speed the settlement of disputes between the two countries.

These sources expressed their optimism concerning the success of this step and pointed out that Iraq will resume pumping its oil from Kirkuk through the pipeline across Syria to terminals in Baniyas and Tripoli on the Mediterranean should these talks succeed.

Iraq had suspended its oil pumping to these two terminals 2 years ago.

Syrian sources have pointed out that President al-Asad is reviewing the cases of political detainees and that a decree is expected to be issued granting an amnesty to them. The amnesty decree is expected to include former head of state Dr Nur ad-Din al-Atasi, Maj Gen Salah Jadid, former Prime Minister Yusuf Zu'ayyin, and other party leaders who were detained after the 1970 corrective movement. The decree will also include party members who support the Iraqi command. The decree might also include Syrian political refugees abroad.

AMMAN COMMENTARY SAYS ISRAEL WANTS TO ISOLATE EGYPT

JN241938Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] After Menahem Begin has exposed Israel's expansionist designs in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Syrian Heights and parts of the Sinai Peninsula; after Israel has emptied the Egyptian initiative of all its substance, gone beyond it and moved to the stage of imposing the peace of the strong victor over the weak vanquished; after world Zionism has succeeded in curtailing the U.S. role and prevented Washington from performing an effective role through the initiatives it began in early 1977; after it has become certain that the Arab states are convinced more than at any time in the past of the impossibility of reaching peace with Israel, which believes that Jews have the right to settlement in all the lands of Israel mentioned in the Torah, stretching from the Euphrates to the Nile; after it has been confirmed that peace cannot be achieved without the various parties concerned and without an understanding of the nature of Israel as a racist state founded on occupation and expansion;

and after Israel itself has closed all the paths for coming to an understanding with it to establish a just and lasting peace in the area; after all this, any attempt to revive [ihya] the negotiations which have resulted from the Egyptian initiative is futile because they are floundering in the maze of Zionist trickery and crashing against the inability or lack of desire of the U.S. administration to bring effective pressure to bear on Israel, on the one hand, and Israeli intransigence, on the other--this intransigence which is based on imposing the peace of the strong on the weak.

We hope that the various Arab states will seek to transcend the differences caused by President as-Sadat's initiative and bridge the numerous gaps in Arab relations so that Arab weakness will not be one of the most important weapons on which Israel relies in its attempts to impose unconditional surrender on our Arab nation.

In its ultra-extremism at this stage, Israel relies upon its insatiable military strength as much as upon the frailty of Arab confrontation and wagering on the differences and divisions in the Arab world.

To realize some of its phased objectives, Israel will try to keep the door of negotiations open in an attempt to isolate Egypt from the Arab community. The current Arab moves should not be dragged into the labyrinth of Arab differences, since this only serves Israel's phased objectives to isolate the Egyptian military forces from the arena of Arab confrontation.

It does not hurt our nation to return to the starting point in dealing with the common cause because the cause, thanks to Israel's intransigence, will not go beyond this starting point. Our nation should realize before it is too late that it possesses all the factors which help it in confronting all the alternatives raised by Israel in the Arab arena.

AMMAN REPORTS PRINCE'S ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON

JN242015Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan held a series of meetings in Washington today with U.S. officials. His highness met with U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale and Dr Brzezinski, the U.S. President's adviser on national security. His highness also met with the members of the Foreign Relations Committee and the International Relations Committee in the Congress, and with AFL-CIO Chairman George Meany.

His highness also met with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. In addition to relations between the two countries, the discussions dealt with recent developments in the Middle East following President as-Sadat's initiative and the suspension of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan explained to U.S. officials that Begin's recent proposals do not serve peace but are based on the perpetuation of the illegal occupation of Arab territories, the partitioning of the land and the dispersal of its people. His highness affirmed the Palestinian people's rights within the framework of any solution of the question.

In his contacts, his highness also touched on Jordan's responsibilities toward the Palestinian issue, affirming that these responsibilities are a pan-Arab duty arising from the principles of Arab policy. He explained that the Israeli stands are moving further away from the UN resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolution No 242.

WALID JUNBLATT TO VISIT UNITED STATES

JN201012Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 20 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 January--It was reported here today that Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, will shortly pay an official visit to the United States. The newspapers cite party sources as saying that Junblatt received an invitation 2 months ago and this was renewed during his recent meeting with U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker.

AL-HUSS RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR PARKER

NC231331Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today met with U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker at the prime minister's office at the Ministry of Economy and Trade. After the meeting, Prime Minister al-Huss said: The discussions dealt with the Middle East situation in the light of recent developments. The aid the United States has given and is giving Lebanon in the various fields of construction was also assessed with the U.S. ambassador.

Answering a question, U.S. Ambassador Parker said: All rumors that the United States is behind the idea of the settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon are baseless. May God forgive those who spread these rumors. The U.S. ambassador declined to specify the reasons which prevented the continuation of the discussions between Israel and Egypt. He said: I do not want to discuss these details.

AL-HUSS RECEIVES VISITING PCI DELEGATION

AU11450 Rome ANSA in Italian 0830 GMT 21 Jan 78 AU

[Text] Beirut 21 Jan (ANSA)--The Lebanese prime minister, Salim al-Huss, yesterday received in Beirut a PCI delegation, headed by Deputy Giancarlo Pajetta, that has gone to Lebanon at the invitation of the PLO. After the meeting, Pajetta told ANSA that the subjects discussed concerned problems relating to the unity, territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon.

It is reported meanwhile that at a meeting yesterday between the Italian delegation and the Steering Committee of the Lebanese National Movement, those present included leaders of the Progressive Socialist Party (whose leader is Walid Junblatt), of "Murabitun" (independent Nasirites), of the Syrian Popular Party, [passage indistinct], of the "communist action" organizations, as well as independent personalities, including Deputy Albert Mansur. After the conclusion of its visit in Lebanon, the PCI delegation left for Damascus, where it will meet with leaders of the Syrian Ba'th Party who have invited it.

JUNBLATT REACTS TO RIGHTIST STATEMENT

JN241806Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The statement of the so-called Lebanese front which was issued by its forces in Zgharta was received with violent reaction in Lebanese circles. Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Central Politburo of the Lebanese National Movement, commented on the statement by saying it expresses in letter and spirit the various old theories which insist on dividing Lebanon, dealing a blow to its unity and trying to liquidate the Palestinian issue. Regarding the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, Junblatt said this presence does not represent any obstacle, as the Lebanese front claims, if it stems from real intentions to achieve a dialog or agreement among all parties in the Lebanese arena.

He added that there is no need to use this presence as an excuse on every occasion. Junblatt then said that the matter of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon can be solved only by finding a solution for the Palestinian issue through political and military cooperation with the Arab countries so as to restore the legitimate rights and usurped territories.

DESTROYERS INTERCEPT ARMS SHIPMENT FOR PALESTINIANS

NC250641Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 25 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Reports received at dawn today from Tyre say that a ship carrying various types of arms for the Palestinians failed in attempting to enter Tyre harbor to unload its cargo of arms. The ship notified the harbor control center south of the city that two destroyers had intercepted the ship in Lebanese territorial waters and had prevented it from proceeding to the harbor. A dispatch received by the Voice of Lebanon about 10 minutes ago says that the alien ship is still attempting to reach Tyre harbor.

INA REPORTS CLASHES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN241444Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 January--Joint forces of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon today repulsed two attempts by the rightist forces to advance in the direction of the village of Balat in the eastern sector of the border region. The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon says that the rightist forces early this morning tried to advance in the direction of the village, after having reinforced their positions and concentrated troops north of Marj 'Uyun axis, which is under the control of the rightists. They were turned back when they met strong resistance from the joint forces. The correspondent pointed out that at midday today the rightist forces, armed with heavy artillery, again tried to advance but were repulsed with heavy losses. Quoting the sources of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in southern Lebanon, the correspondent said that the rightist forces are preparing to escalate on all axes the military operation which they began 10 days ago.

Fighting Intensifies Around Balat

JN241655Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1638 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 January--The fighting intensified this afternoon around the border village of Balat between the joint forces and the rightist forces, which have been trying to occupy the village since last night. The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that heavy artillery and tanks are being used in the violent battles raging around the village. The enemy artillery is shelling the positions of the joint forces from inside the occupied territory. The correspondent points out that the enemy air force is overflying the area of the clashes, the positions of the joint forces and the major towns in southern Lebanon.

Increased Fighting in South

JN241855Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1802 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 January--Battles are still raging in southern Lebanon between the Zionist-aided rightist forces and the joint forces. Fighting became fierce as clashes continued into the night. The battles were fought mainly along the western axis on the border and included the towns of Al-Khiyam, Marj 'Uyun, Ibil as-Sawi and Al-Qulay'ah. The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon says that heavy artillery was heard off the city of Sidon. He added that the enemy forces dropped flare bombs on the nationalist positions in order to reveal any defensive move by the joint forces.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES ALGERIAN ENVOY, MESSAGE FROM BOUMEDIENE

JN212129Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 21 Jan 78 JN

[Text] At 2145 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister adviser to Algerian President Houari Boumediene. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Ibrahimi conveyed a message from President Boumediene to President al-Asad.

During the meeting the talks dealt with the developments of the Arab stiuation since Boumediene's visit to Damascus and the results of his visit to the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Tunisia. They stressed the need to continue the efforts and action to bolster the front of steadfastness and confrontation in the face of the capitulatory steps of the Egyptian regime and the Zionist-imperialist plotting against the Arab nation.

Algerian Envoy Departs

JN231510Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1355 GMT 23 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 23 January--Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the minister counselor to the Algerian president, left Damascus at 1200 today following a 3-day visit to Syria. During the visit, Ibrahimi conveyed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Algerian President Houari Boumediene dealing with the outcome of the latter's visit to the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Tunisia.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Adib Milhim, minister of state for presidential affairs; Dr Shakir al-Fahham, minister of education; the chief of protocol; and the Algerian charge d'affaires in Damascus.

FORMER LEBANESE PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH VISITS DAMASCUS

JN241128Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah arrived in Damascus at 1030 today. He was received at the Syrian-Lebanese border by Adib Milhim, minister of state for presidential affairs; Maj Gen Zuhary Ghazal, secretary general of the presidential office and a number of high-ranking protocol officials.

Franjiyah Makes Statement

JN241308Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Text] At 1315 today President Hafiz al-Asad received former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah.

Franjiyah arrived in Damascus at 1030 today. He was received at the Syrian-Lebanese border by Adib Milhim, minister of state for presidential affairs; Maj Gen Zuhayr Ghazal, secretary general of the presidential office and a number of high-ranking protocol officials.

After a short rest at Ar-Rawdah Palace, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim received and welcomed Mr Franjiyah. The two sides then held a meeting, which lasted about 1 hour.

In an exclusive statement to a SANA correspondent, Franjiyah expressed happiness at visiting Damascus. He said he is happy with the visit, particularly since it is taking place at a time when the Syrian People's Assembly has renewed its confidence in President Hafiz al-Asad and unanimously agreed to nominate him for the next presidential term.

Franjiyah affirmed his eagerness to participate with the Syrian Arab people in their joy over this step. In answer to a question, Franjiyah said that during his visit to Damascus he will discuss with President Hafiz al-Asad and the brother Syrian officials a number of topics of interest to the two fraternal countries and the situation in the Arab area.

Franjiyah expressed satisfaction over the fact that the situation has become stable in Lebanon. He said: As for the situation in the south, which is a dear part of Lebanon, we hope that final and lasting solution will be found for the problems from which the south is suffering.

Concerning As-Sadat's recent capitulatory steps, Franjiyah said: My opinion in this regard is well known and has been spelled out several times. I repeat that these steps are a theatrical action which has caused serious damage to the Arab cause.

Franjiyah praised President al-Asad's pan-Arab stand and his opposition to As-Sadat's defeatist visit.

Talks With Al-Asad

JN241730Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah at 1315 today. The talks dealt with the various aspects of the current Arab situation and with developments in Lebanon, which are progressing in a positive manner.

President Hafiz al-Asad explained the Syrian stand on the steps of capitulation taken by the Egyptian regime and the need to strengthen Arab efforts and capabilities to resist this capitulatory approach to which the Arab nation is exposed. Mr Franjiyah reaffirmed his attitude on As-Sadat's initiatives. He expressed his appreciation of Syria's stand in the region and the importance of this stand in consolidating the steadfastness of the Arab nation. He also expressed appreciation for Syria's help, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, for the fraternal Lebanese state.

Mr Franjiyah had luncheon with President Hafiz al-Asad. Also attending the luncheon were Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Ba'th Party National Command member Maj Gen Naji Jamil, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Adib Mulhim and Chief of the General Staff of the Army and the Armed Forces Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi.

Mr Franjiyah left Damascus this evening for Beirut after a 1-day visit to Damascus. He was seen off at the Syrian-Lebanese border post by Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Adib Mulhim; Maj Gen Zuhayr Ghazal, secretary general of the president's office; and a number of protocol officials at the presidency.

It will be recalled that Mr Franjiyah met with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam for about 1 hour. The meeting was attended by Chief of the General Staff of the Army and the Armed Forces Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi.

ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT

JN231515Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1345 GMT 23 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 23 January--The Italian Communist Party delegation led by Giancarlo Pajetta, member of the Secretariat of the Italian Communist Party and head of the Foreign Relations Office, left Damascus this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to Syria at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the National Command and head of the Foreign Relations Office; Comrade Fayez an-Nuri, member of the Regional Command; the director of the Foreign Relations Office in the National Command; a number of the party comrades; and the Italian ambassador in Damascus.

While in Syria, the delegation had political talks with Syrian officials and signed an agreement for joint cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the Italian Communist Party.

In a statement to SANA, Comrade Pajetta expressed his pleasure at meeting with President al-Asad and other Ba'th Party officials. He said: These meetings were very useful. We have been assured of Syria's eagerness to achieve the unity of the concerted action and the firm position necessary to establish real and just peace in the area in accordance with the UN resolutions. He also praised the Syrian position in this regard.

Comrade Pajetta said that this position is being supported by both Syria's Arab brothers and the progressive forces in the world. He expressed his appreciation for the existing relations between the two parties and countries. He added: We are constantly endeavoring to strengthen and develop these relations in the interest of the peoples. He praised the cooperation agreement between the Italian Communist Party and the Ba'th Party.

SOVIET FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS

JN231524Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 23 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 23 January--A delegation of the Soviet-Syrian Friendship Society headed by Zinaida Kruglova, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, arrived in Damascus this morning. The delegation was met at the airport by Comrade Mit'ib Shinan, member of the party Regional Command and chairman of the Syrian-Soviet Friendship Society; Comrade Muhammad 'Ali al-Ashqar, secretary of the Damascus party branch; and members of the executive office of the Syrian-Soviet Friendship Society.

Comrade Kruglova made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which she expressed her pleasure and that of the members of her delegation at visiting Syria. This visit, she said, takes place within the framework of mutual cooperation and for the purpose of dealing with matters presented for discussion by the two friendship societies. At the end of these meetings, she added, an agreement will be signed on mutual cooperation and the strengthening of the ties of friendship between us in the common interest of both friendly countries.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE VISTS ORAN, MAKES ADDRESS

LD242116Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] President Boumediene paid a visit to Oran today. At a ceremony the president installed the party national commissioner, Mr Hasnawi. He also installed the party national council. On the occasion President Boumediene stressed that the new system which will be in effect until the party congress is held will allow broad democracy to insure more effective coordination; this system will continue its activity until the national congress is held. The president spoke at length about this system and about the year at the party, stressing the creation of all conditions for the strugglers to work in a democratic atmosphere. The president, referring to this system said: We want the conferences to be successful and to reflect the words of the national charter. The president added we must be loyal to ourselves when organizing these conferences by whose all-round organization will have made a big step in building the framework of our state. "In his speech, the president dwelt on the situation in the Arab Maghreb and on the conflict between Morocco, Mauritania and the French air force on the one hand, and the Saharan people on the other. He also dwelt on the current situation in the Arab east, recent developments and the Palestinian cause, renewing the support of the Algerian people for the Palestinian cause, renewing the support of the Algerian people for the Palestinian and Saharan peoples in their just struggle against the Zionist, Moroccan and Mauritanian invaders. In conclusion he called on the strugglers to mobilize themselves in this party year, so that the results will be good and successful, by holding the party national congress--one of the noble aims of the socialist revolution.

The president was accorded a warm welcome upon arrival in Oran. He left Oran at 1715 today for Algiers.

LIBYA

VISITING SOVIET DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS IN TRIPOLI

LD251030Y Tripoli JANA in English 0915 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Jan, JANA--The visiting Soviet delegation of the Libyan-Soviet Friendship Society yesterday held a meeting with the society members at the foreign liaison bureau. The two sides discussed aspects of cooperation in their bilateral relations and ways and means to strengthen these relations in the current year.

They agreed to exchange visits by popular delegations, to celebrate national days of both countries and to organise cultural and artistic weeks to introduce the culture and heritage of both countries to their people.

The meeting also finalised the programme of the Soviet delegation during its visit to the Jamahiriyah. The programme includes several meetings with secretaries of various departments, heads of trade unions and other federations and tour of some projects reflecting the progress achieved by the First of September Revolution in various fields.

The Libyan-Soviet Friendship Society will hold a reception this evening at the People's Palace in Tripoli to celebrate the anniversary of the October Revolution.

OFFICIAL RETURNS FROM VISIT TO SYRIA

LD242104Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Jan 78 JANA--Brother Ahmad al-Khatib, chairman of the Federal Council of Ministers, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon. He was welcomed at the airport by brother Milad Shumaylah, secretary of the General People's Congress and by the Syrian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

Brother Ahmad al-Khatib had been on a working visit to Syria, which lasted a few days, to reinvigorate the activity of the Confederation of Arab Republics.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF RETURNS FROM YUGOSLAVIA

LD201052Y Tripoli JANA in English 0916 GMT 20 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, January 20, JANA--Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces returned home last night after a four-day official visit to Yugoslavia during which he had met President Josip Broz Tito and conveyed to him a verbal message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the revolution.

Brigadier Jabir was welcomed at 'Uqba ibn Nafi' air base by Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi and a number of officers.

JANA has learnt that President Tito has asked Brigadier Jabir to convey to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi the Yugoslav president's greetings and profound appreciation of the prominent role he performs in support of issues of justice and peace, as a world distinguished leader whose great action is an emphasis of the principles of positive neutrality and non-alignment.

This came during Brigadier Jabir's interview with President Tito at his residence in Akalo town Wednesday, where President Tito notified him of the verbal message to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

The C-in-C and the accompanying delegation spent four days of official meetings and bilateral talks with Yugoslav senior officials of the party and the state especially the federal defense minister.

MOROCCO

ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE SEEN AIDING REJECTION FRONT

LD201055Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 15 Jan 78 pp 1,3 LD

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial]

[Excerpts] The very fact that the Arabs have now accepted the State of Israel constitutes a major fundamental concession.

Of course, it is a proof of realism on their part, but also a proof of generosity. The Arabs want this conflict, which has lasted for 30 years, to be settled at last and this is why they have made the biggest concession they could make. But we now note that Israel is refusing to follow the Arabs along this road.

In Morocco, we have always had the most reasonable attitude toward this issue. His Majesty King Hassan II was the first to speak of a peaceful solution and coexistence between the descendants of Abraham and he was the first to open the dialog and debate between Jews and Arabs by receiving top Jewish personalities such as Dr Nahum Goldmann. Morocco, moreover, has always set an example of fraternal and peaceful cohabitation with the Jews.

This makes our conscience all the easier when we condemn as unacceptable the statements by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

However, as soon as the Arabs accepted Israel's existence, notably by attending the first Geneva conference, and thus made the greatest possible concession, it was up to the other side to make a gesture of similar impact, and there is only one: unconditional withdrawal from all the territories, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967.

Yet, Mr Begin is unwilling to surrender any part of Jerusalem, which has an obviously Arab character. Although a Jew, Jean Daniel wrote that everything beautiful in Jerusalem is Arab; it is true that over the 15 centuries that Jerusalem has been Moslem, the Arabs have acted as vigilant and attentive custodians of all the holy places, both Jewish and Christian; they have never defiled them as the Zionists do today under the cover of archeological digs.

If Israel really wants peace, it must satisfy all the Arab demands without conditions or preconditions. Begin has declared that he will never negotiate with the PLO, that he will never accept a Palestinian state and that he is opposed to the return of Palestinian refugees to their country. All this is completely unacceptable, because the only real problem at issue today in the Near East is precisely recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights, with all the consequences which this entails. There is no other solution, and the road to peace is via this sine qua non condition; other problems, particularly the Arab occupied territories, whether we are talking about the Golan Heights or Sinai, appear, in the last analysis, to be minor ones.

One cannot fail to be struck by the paradox of Zionist intransigence which has used the return, 2,000 years after the dispersion, as the very basis of the Zionist state, and which is now refusing to allow the people who left this land only 30 years ago to return.

As we have just said, there is no solution but to go back to the pre-1967 situation.

It is apparent that there is no solution but withdrawal, and to prevent a vacuum immediately after the withdrawal of Israeli forces they must quite simply go back to the pre-1967 arrangements, in other words, hand over Gaza to Egypt and the West Bank to Jordan. In this way the Palestinian problem will be settled by the Arabs themselves, that is, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and the PLO.

All the conditions required to insure self-determination for the Palestinian people will be present.

The existence of Israel has been accepted by everyone. No one disputes Israel's existence any more, whether as a result of realism or resignation.

But, by contesting Palestinian existence when it is natural and essential for it to recognize it, Israel, for its part, is merely strengthening the rejection front, although it is quite obvious that the Arabs should be left to settle a problem which has always been theirs.

Since the countries concerned, those of the field of confrontation, that is, Egypt, Syria and Jordan, have agreed to take part in the Geneva conference, in other words, to negotiate with Israel, and have thus accepted Israeli existence, and since Egypt, through its president, has gone much further in this direction by recognizing Israel de facto and proposing direct negotiations with it, the Zionist state is faced with two possibilities:

--Either respond to these advances by accepting the Arabs' rightful demands and the restoration of peace and peaceful coexistence between the State of Israel and the Palestinian state;

--Or else persist in its refusal and in this way strengthen the Arab rejection front, cause a deterioration in the situation to the detriment of all the states in the area and confirm Ben-Gurion's prophecy: "Israel will win all the wars, except the final one."

ALGERIAN DISSIDENT SCORES BOUMEDIENE TOUR, USSR VISIT

LD191127Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 14 Jan 78 pp 1, 4 LD

[Apparent text of statement by Algerian opposition leader Mohamed Lebjaoui--date not given]

[Text] The Algerian leader, Mohamed Lebjaoui, has published the following statement:

The Algerian Movement of People's Forces and of the Army for Democracy and Maghreb Union [MAFPADUM] has decided, on behalf of true Algeria, to denounce the operation undertaken by the fascist dictator Houari Boumediene in the Arab Mashriq.

In fact, on the fallacious pretext of strengthening the cohesion of the Arab nation, the usurper colonel is trying to use the Arab-Moslem world's current difficulties for his own ends. He hopes to use these special circumstances to portray himself as the unswerving defender of Arab dignity while he really intends to continue his work of dividing and burying our unity. He has already let his mask slip by openly praising fratricidal war and hatred.

The real aim of his tour of Arab Mashriq countries is clear. In addition to his ridiculous permanent personal candidature for the leadership, Colonel Boumediene is trying to disguise the insoluble internal problems facing his totalitarian regime, to break out of his diplomatic isolation, to wage a libelous campaign against Rabat and Nouakchott over the Moroccan-Mauritanian Sahara and possibly to set certain Arab leaders against France because the latter will not fall quietly into line with the Algerian dictatorship's anti-Maghreb policy.

He also wants Washington to see him as a valuable and powerful intermediary with a great deal of influence in the Third World and he wants Moscow to see him as a particularly effective satellite. Furthermore, we would like to point out that at the end of his tour of Arab capitals he went straight off to report to the Kremlin and to demand more arms to spill yet more Maghreb and Arab blood. For him, our country's growing economic dependence on the United States does not exclude his regime's existing ideological, political, diplomatic and military dependence on the Soviet Union. On the contrary, the higher interests of Algeria require a concerted effort by all Arab countries, particularly the PLO, to force the United States and the USSR, who were joint founders of the State of Israel after the last world war and consequently bear most of the responsibility for the tragedy of the Palestinian people, to join their efforts for peace, with the restitution of all occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem and the right of a Palestinian state to exist on Palestinian soil as priorities.

Moreover, Colonel Boumediene dares to advocate the assassination of President as-Sadat and a few other Arab leaders and presents his criminal plans as the only way to achieve Arab liberation.

But patriots in both our countries realize, on the contrary, that only by destroying Boumediene's monstrous plots will we be able to fight together with all the appropriate means to force Menahem Begin's government to abandon its colonialist plans and its unpardonable inflexibility in face of the Arab nation's legitimate demands and the desire of all the peoples in the region, including Israeli people, for peace with dignity and justice.

The MAFPADUM calls on all Arab patriots to show increased vigilance against Colonel Boumediene's divisive moves. He is a noncombatant colonel who did not take part in any of the Maghreb struggles for national liberation, but his hands are red with Algerian, Moroccan and Mauritanian blood and with Arab blood.

This colonel is a dictator who seized power by force against the will of our people and unleashed a fratricidal war in the Maghreb. This war has already claimed hundreds of victims and is jeopardizing the efforts of all the brother countries in the Maghreb to achieve economic development. It is a personal war waged by a colonel who craves power and it is spreading bereavement, suffering and poverty in our country. This war looks as though it will soon be costing our people almost a billion old francs per day and this regime has already stripped our people of a large part of their national heritage.

Our movement hopes that all Arab patriots will resolutely refuse to give the slightest support to Colonel Boumediene's ploys, for he is the scourge of the Algerian people and the professed enemy of Maghreb and Arab fraternity.

PAPER REPORTS ALGERIAN DISSIDENT'S LETTER TO WALDHEIM

LD131223Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 6 Jan 77 p 5 LD

[MAP report]

[Text] Rabat--The daily newspaper AL-ALAM published on Thursday excerpts from a letter sent by Algerian opposition figure Col Tahar Zbiri to the UN secretary general, in which he draws the attention of international organizations to the violations of public freedoms in Algeria.

Col Tahar Zbiri, speaking on behalf of the "National Rally for Democracy and the Algerian Revolution," vehemently denounced the brutal acts and the policy of repression perpetrated by the Algerian Government to stifle any voice raised against the disguised dictatorship and to spread panic and fear among Algerian citizens, who are deprived of the most elementary principles of human rights.

That is why, he said, a large number of Algerians are arrested, imprisoned and harshly punished for protesting against and publicly denouncing Colonel Boumediene's oppressive policy.

Colonel Zbiri stated that other Algerians from various social strata (workers, technical personnel and intellectuals) emigrate to other countries, thus preferring the bitterness of homesickness to being the target for a blind and unpopular dictatorial power.

"It is because of all these facts and on the occasion of world human rights day," Colonel Zbiri continues, "that the Algerian people can only celebrate the solemn declaration of human rights while demanding the practical implementation of the principles of that universal declaration in Algeria."

Finally, Colonel Zbiri asked Mr Waldheim and the international organizations to intervene rapidly to save the Algerian people from tyranny.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI RECEIVES EEC PRESIDENT ROY JENKINS

LD211858Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the republic, received Mr Roy Jenkins, the president of the EEC Commission, in his office in the Peoples' Palace at 0900 today.

Mr ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president of the republic and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

The meeting covered the political situation in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa and reviewed Sudan's relations with the EEC and the strong cooperation with [word indistinct], as well as aspects of the cooperation and aid which the market could give to Sudan to advance the march of development in the country.

SUNA says that President Numayri has accepted Mr Jenkins' invitation to visit Brussels. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

TUNISIA

RADIO REPORTS UNION'S CALL FOR 24-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE

LD250254Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 0030 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The Tunisian General Union of Labor [UGTT], has decided to stage a 24-hour general strike throughout Tunisia beginning at midnight on Thursday, 26 January. Habib Ashur, secretary general of the union, announced this yesterday afternoon during a press conference held jointly with Otto Kersten, secretary general of the ICFTU at the UGTT headquarters. The secretary general has been in Tunisia on a visit since Sunday.

TEAR GAS USED AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS IN TUNIS

LD242038Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Following a gathering at noon today in front of the headquarters of the Tunisian General Union of Labor [UGTT] in Tunis a number of troublemakers embarked on outrageous acts of violence in the neighboring streets causing damage to shops and cars in the Muhammad Ali, Annabah and Roma avenues where shop windows were smashed [words indistinct]--a matter which amounts to an act of aggression against the means of livelihood of citizens and an infringement of public security. The security forces intervened using tear gas.

BOURGUIBA RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM KING HASSAN

LD231434Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jan 78 LD

[Text] At 1130 today, President Habib Bourguiba received at the Republican Palace at Carthage Moroccan Ambassador to Tunisia Mohammed Tazi who said later that he delivered a message from King Hassan II to the president. The audience was attended by Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO ISSUES STATEMENT ON COMING OAU SUMMIT

LD230128Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Jan 78 LD

[Text] With the approach of the OAU emergency summit on the Western Sahara, in Libreville the POLISARIO leadership has issued a statement from Hausa region in the liberated territory. The statement says that the POLISARIO expresses deep satisfaction with the decision of the current OAU chairman, Gabonese President Omar Bongo, to convene the OAU emergency summit on the Western Sahara with the presence of the Saharan people who are struggling for the independence and sovereignty of their homeland against the Moroccan-Mauritanian military aggression.

The statement stresses that the decision to convene the emergency OAU summit on the Western Sahara reflects the concern of the OAU over the grave situation which has been created by the process of hindering the liquidation of colonialism in Western Sahara by Morocco and Mauritania. It also reflects the failure of all Moroccan and Mauritanian maneuvers that seek to create unsuitable conditions for the convening of the emergency conference. It also reflects the fact that the Saharan people have imposed their presence and have managed to make world opinion aware of the fact that this is a cause of a people struggling for freedom in the Western Sahara.

The statement adds the decision to convene the emergency conference is a logical reply to French intervention in the African Continent; it is tantamount to a call on France by the entire African Continent to withdraw its forces from the conflict in the Western Sahara, and that the African Continent would not allow foreign forces to intervene to maintain colonialism in a country which is expected to be liberated and become sovereign.

POLISARIO REPORTS 19-20 JANUARY OPERATIONS

LD230129Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Jan 78 LD

[Summary] The POLISARIO has released a military communique on operations on 19-20 January. On 19 January Moroccan forces in (Jidiryah) sustained heavy losses in two operations. On 20 January Saharan forces clashed with Moroccan forces at Wadi an-Nasr and five vehicles were destroyed.

DAYAN, ATHERTON DISCUSS DRAFT DECLARATION

TA241203Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 24 Jan 78 pp 1, 6 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] The first three clauses in the draft of the Israeli-Egyptian declaration of intentions have already been finished, and yesterday Messrs Moshe Dayan and Alfred Atherton continued hammering out the question of the Palestinian issue. Israel is showing readiness for further flexibility. The proposal worked out yesterday will be submitted to Egypt today, through the U.S. embassies in Tel Aviv and Cairo.

The three clauses already agreed on express readiness by the two parties to conclude a peace treaty based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The parties agree to establish secure and defined borders between them and to create peaceful relations according to a peace treaty to be signed between them.

The Palestinian issue takes up two more clauses in the draft, but further work on this issue is apt to conclude the subject in only one clause.

The Israeli aim in discussing the subject with the United States and with Egypt is to bring about a definition of the Palestinians that will not be interpreted as pertaining to the entire Palestinian public, wherever they may be living. The Egyptians are opposed to this. In the course of the endeavors to overcome differences of opinion on this subject, among other things discussed were definitions of the terms "the Palestinian problem"--as demanded by Egypt--vis-a-vis "the Palestinian issue"--as suggested by Israel.

As far as is known, in yesterday's meeting between Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton a package deal was suggested according to which Israel would agree to the term "Palestinian problem" and Egypt in turn would abstain from its demand to include in the version the phrase "with all its facets." The U.S. formulation (based on President Carter's declaration in Aswan), which is now being discussed among Israel, the United States and Egypt, postulates among other things that in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations "every facet" of the Palestinian problem will be discussed. This wording is thought by Israel to be too conclusive and to demand the establishment of a Palestinian state. Hence, it is now suggested that it be omitted in return for Israel's readiness to define the subject as a "problem" rather than an "issue."

The meeting yesterday was also attended by the U.S. ambassador in Israel, Mr Samuel Lewis, Cabinet Legal Adviser Prof Aharon Baraq, Foreign Ministry Director General Mr Efra'im 'Evron, Foreign Ministry Legal Adviser Dr Me'ir Rosenne, the foreign minister's adviser, Mr Naftali Lavi', and the minister's aide, Mr Eli Rubinstein.

MORNING PRESS COMMENTS ON KNESSET SPEECHES

TA240647Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Jan 78 TA

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] HAZOFE says that the main speeches in the Knesset, particularly those by the prime minister and the chairman of the Alinement faction, again pointed out the factors uniting all sectors of the public.

DAVAR writes that Begin replied to the verbal attack by the Egyptian president in his speech on Saturday with an attack no less sharp. The paper calls on the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister to announce a cease-fire in the war of microphones. It would be better for both governments to discuss ways of finding a compromise on the matters in dispute.

'AL HAMISHMAR says that there is still a chance of renewing and developing the peace initiative, despite the fact that this cabinet has not stood up to the test of conducting the negotiations. After it deluded the people about the way the talks were going, it has now come to almost the threshold of losing the opportunity. Nevertheless, everything must be done in order to bring the representatives of Israel and Egypt back to the joint discussions table.

HAMODI'A thinks that Begin's speech left an open door for a renewal of the negotiations with Egypt, whether in the Military or the Political Committee. The paper stresses that there is complete justification for the cabinet's demand that Egypt put an end to the campaign of anti-Semitic publicity, a campaign which is undoubtedly directed by ruling circles in Egypt.

In the view of the Jerusalem POST, the challenge now facing Israel and Egypt is to bring about a renewal of the peace talks with minimum mediation by the United States, and that only in the hour of need.

'OMER writes that the negotiations between Israel and Egypt could be renewed if Egypt returned to the atmosphere that existed when its president visited Jerusalem.

Afternoon Press Editorials

TA240913Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Jan 78 TA

[Text] In the view of YEDI'OT AHARONOT, the prime minister said nothing new in his speech to the Knesset. Therefore, the paper draws the conclusion that the aim of the debate was to inform the Egyptian president that in the end Israel will send its delegation to the Military Committee if they stop insulting us in Cairo. According to the paper, this is another achievement gained by the cabinet.

MA'ARIV thinks that there is a point to renewing talks with Egypt only if it is absolutely clear that the reference is to negotiations and not to diktats. In the paper's view, the reaction of the cabinet and the Knesset to the blows at Israel's honor was fitting.

MINISTERS INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS

Tamir Interview

TA211600Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 20 Jan 78 TA

[Interview with Justice Minister Shemu'el Tamir by Gid'on Lev-Ari on the Weekly Column program in the Jerusalem radio studio--apparently live]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr Justice Minister, are you confused [about the crisis in the Israeli-Egyptian talks]?

[Answer] No, I am not confused. It was clear to me even during the ceremonious reception for the Egyptian president that there would be crises and that we would overcome them, that there would be moments of euphoria followed by disappointment and so on. This is an integral part of all negotiations, particularly after 30 years of enmity and wars.

[Question] Does this seem to you to be a temporary crisis or a basic change in the Egyptian position?

[Answer] This is a grave crisis but I believe that this is not the end of things.

[Question] It is inevitable that in the course of such complicated and hard negotiations there are also crises. This was expected. However, now that what has happened has happened and when it so happens that the Egyptian president did not consult his foreign minister and his delegation here in Jerusalem--that he did not ask him how things went in the Political Committee deliberations--the question is to what extent can negotiations be conducted with a country whose leader is given to changing moods?

[Answer] One acts in given circumstances. There is no democracy there, certainly not anything like our democracy or Western democracy. This is the situation there and this also holds true for the Soviet Union, China, Africa, South America. This is part of the world and these are the facts you have to deal with. Among the countries with autocratic regimes of a single man, Egypt, as has been proven, is the most flexible. It is very rigid compared with us, but against the background of the general picture of Middle Eastern countries, it is the most flexible. It took the step [toward peace]. It is with it that we today maintain negotiations at various levels--on the level of heads of state, journalists, senior officials and also at the popular level. All this means that there are chances here, and this is the man whose general personality should be considered. This is the man who at one time said that he was ready to sacrifice 3 million Egyptians and not give up a single square meter of Egyptian land. This is the man who, at a later date, said that nothing is worth the risk that even a single Egyptian soldier gets a scratch. He said both things. Therefore, we should, on the one hand, be prepared for the first possibility, and, on the other, must not miss what is expressed in the other remark.

An enormous responsibility lies on our shoulders. We must not reach the moment when we will say to ourselves: There has been an opportunity--have we not missed it? By the same token we must not act in a way which will lead us to be tempted into making concessions that the State of Israel will not be able to live with should a change of mood or feeling occur. Walking between these two tendencies is like walking on a tightrope, and, believe me, the question here is no longer one of doves and hawks and platforms and the like. This is a new reality, these are new tests, this is a new choice between two difficult sets of facts and we must call on sound reason and be closely attuned to things.

[Question] What, in your opinion, may get the negotiations moving again?

[Answer] I do not think that the negotiations are in a total deadlock. There are contacts and the United States is also in the middle. The United States is Israel's friend, and it is very eager to have improved and closer relations with Egypt and other Arab countries. It has very strong interests in the region. It also fears negative developments, just like Europe and the rest of us. So, there is an element here that is far more than a mediator. It is a highly influential party. In my opinion, things are progressing and we, if we want to succeed, must exercise restraint and remain calm. Those who quickly gallop toward additional concessions will wind up with failure when they come to the point of saying no, together with creating illusions on the other side that we are ready for everything.

If you want me to summarize what our underlying line should be I would say the following: if we get diktats--no, this means a sure failure; continue conducting bilateral negotiations on the basis of mutuality and reciprocity--yes.

[Question] Mr Tamir, how should we act in regard to the settlements in the Rafah approaches?

[Answer] We are not talking only about the settlements but also about the Rafah approaches. The Rafah approaches have a significance beyond the new settlements there. The Rafah approaches are the bar separating the largest Arab country, whose citizens number nearly 40 million, from the most densely Arab-populated region in Eretz Yisra'el, the Gaza Strip, which has 350,000 souls. This has far-reaching significance. Today, the Rafah approaches, which are connected to other parts of the State of Israel, somewhat foreclose the possibility of a link and connection between the Arab population of Eretz Yisra'el and the Egyptian population.

If Egypt tells us that it is going toward peace, that it consents in principle to demilitarization in Sinai, that it dissociates itself from war and from all these complications involved in the reality of Eretz Yisra'el, such dissociation should be total. Of course, later the issue of open borders with Egypt, economic and interregional cooperation, joint irrigation plans--all this is all right. Although Egypt will remain in Africa, it will also be connected with our region. In any case, it is extremely vital for the State of Israel and, in my opinion, even more vital than the very important issue of Sharm ash-Shaykh of Ofira, that this region, which is today peopled with the residents of several settlements, should be in Israeli hands. To this one should add the element which is inculcated throughout Zionist history, namely, that we do everything possible to remain in a place where a Hebrew settlement is erected, houses are built and trees are planted. However, as mentioned earlier, the significance goes much beyond this.

[Question] In other words, on this point you are completely intransigent?

[Answer] I do not think that in negotiations it is good frequently to say that this or that issue is not subject to compromise. I think that this issue is a very important element. I think that Israel, concerning both Sinai and potential bilateral relations with Egypt, has revealed a far-reaching readiness to make concessions for the sake of peace. Now, when Israel, according to the government's decision, has said that the Rafah approaches, due to the importance of the place, as mentioned earlier, and other factors, must remain in Israeli hands, this should then be a central element or component in the negotiations. After all, we are speaking of a region which constitutes 1 percent of the entire area of Egypt, a region far from the heart of the Egyptian population, a region separated from Egypt by the large Sinai Desert. Is it not allowed to ask the question why not?

The entire territory of Sinai has been under Egyptian sovereignty for about 50 years, I believe. There are various implications for and descriptions of the history of Sinai. Is it part of Eretz Yisra'el or is it part of Egypt, or something in between? There are different theories. It is not clear cut.

When we say--and this is part of the Israeli peace plan--that Sinai will be under Egyptian sovereignty, this is a far-reaching readiness, and As-Sadat cannot say: I have done a momentous thing; what have you done in return? He certainly took a very important step in arriving here. However, it is impossible that in return for this single visit, with all it involves--and it is undoubtedly important and great--that we will again and again give substantive things without any consideration of our needs. As far as I know, the principle of demilitarizing Sinai--that most of Sinai will remain as a significant region separating the armies--and the idea of the Rafah approaches remaining in Israeli hands are reasonable and basic. Therefore, it has also been acceptable to international elements that have been impressed by the extent of the Israeli gesture. It has even been painfully done, on the part of Israel, in Sinai, with part of the Israeli public having difficulty putting up with this. Should all this then be ignored? Do we not, each of us, feel the fierce argument about how far we have gone? If you ask me, the Rafah approaches is a basic element in the peace agreement that should and will be signed with the Egyptians.

[Question] As for Judaea and Samaria, Mr Tamir, would you say that the autonomy talked of should remain as it is in the proposal or should it be linked to Jordan?

[Answer] The Israeli proposal, as published, in at least five clauses gives a certain status to Jordan concerning Judaea and Samaria as well. First, there is the clear statement that the citizens of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip will be able to choose between Israeli citizenship and Jordanian citizenship. This clause does not speak of just any citizenship but of a choice between two, with the understanding that nothing that may turn into an independent Palestinian state will grow up there. Israel opposes such a state, so does Jordan and so do As-Sadat's regime, Iran and the United States, as clearly stated by the U.S. President. Well, then, this is the first link in a series of links that have been published and which gives Jordan a certain status.

When the prime minister presented the plan, first in the United States and later to the Egyptian president, he clearly said that the plan is a basis for negotiations, that it is a holy thing that must be followed. Nevertheless, he added that since we have gone a long way from the platforms of the large components of the government toward the desires of As-Sadat and other elements in the arena, it should be understood that the space left to maneuver is very limited. There has been a desire to progress at a full clip, to reach results, to keep the momentum going and to consolidate it. When the State of Israel declared that it does not demand that Israeli sovereignty in Judaea and Samaria be put into effect now, when it agreed to leave this issue open and let every party interpret this the way it wants, it went a significant way, as everybody admits--by everybody I mean objective elements. The negotiations have only just started and we have just sat down at the table, so to get up and leave it is unjust and unreasonable. I do not know that this will be acceptable to people of good will in the world. If you ask me, though, my feeling is that this is not the end, and further campaigns are expected. There will also be additional contacts. This is an integral part of the transitional period from hostility to peace.

[Question] Mr Justice Minister, what, in your opinion, will happen if the foundations of the peace building laid by Prime Minister Begin and President As-Sadat collapse and the talks come to a complete stop? What will happen then?

[Answer] There is such a possibility, and, in my opinion, we should first of all be on guard. Yet, even if it does happen and if, at one stage or another, this creates an atmosphere of deep disappointment and therefore also maybe an aggravation in verbiage and tension--as is usually the case after disappointment between people--in my opinion, the very fact that for months we have sat face to face, talked with one another, met each other and learned, each party, that the other party is not that horrible devil that they had previously imagined it to be, that not just dialog and coexistence are possible but even affection and sympathy--this is a new reality which cannot be reversed and constitutes the basis for the renewal of such contacts in the future. I hope that things will not collapse. It is very vital for Israel, for Egypt, for Europe and for the United States that the momentum continues despite recesses and tense and difficult moments.

[Question] You say that the talks to date have already induced a change that cannot be turned back. On the other hand, Mr Tamir, we know that the greater the expectations and hopes the greater the disappointment. The question is what fruit will grow on the ruins of this process if indeed it collapses?

[Answer] I know it has been mentioned in Egypt and in the wide world that war will be the result of disappointment. One should be prepared for this possibility as well. If you ask me, I am far from thinking that we have already reached this stage, despite the fact that we should be prepared for it. On the other hand, Egypt, which is in danger of bankruptcy, would not have severed relations with a considerable number of Arab countries, its leader would not have taken the risk of arriving here and would not have made all the moves had there not been an extremely strong objective need to try to arrive at peace. It has been clearly shown that we want peace and are prepared to pay for it. Again, regardless of and beyond partisan considerations and assessments, when two very strong interests, in addition to the European and U. S. interests, are all focused on one thing and desire, there are good chances that progress will be resumed and that things should be reasonably carried out.

[Question] Mr Tamir, as a cabinet member and a justice minister, would you want to take an active part in the talks?

[Answer] We all, each in his way, take part. The Justice Ministry legal adviser is a partner in the work of contacts and formulations. He is both the government and the Justice Ministry legal adviser. This is a reality now. There may be other forms of activity. We are only at the beginning. As a cabinet member I take my part, express my views. This is the way things proceed in a democratic society.

[Question] In conclusion concerning our political talk, if I ask you whether peace will or will not be established, what will your answer be?

[Answer] I also believed that we would reach peace in times when it was said in the country that we would not live to see peace in our era. Today as well, I believe that we will attain peace. I also know that until we get to peace we will go through many tense and fearful phases.

Hammer Press Conference

TA241823Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 Jan 78 TA

[Minister of Education and Culture Zevulun Hammer press conference on program "Gentlemen, the Press," moderated by Ben Porat--live]

[Excerpts] [Ben Porat] Good evening. We are broadcasting our program, gentlemen, the press, from Bet 'Agron in Jerusalem. Our guest this time is the minister of education and culture, Mr Zevulun Hammer. Good evening, Mr Minister.

[Hammer] Good evening.

[Ben Porat] I will open with a political question, although I hope that my journalist colleagues will not all follow in my footsteps but will ask questions on matters concerning your ministry. My question is: Can you say at this time that negotiations on the military plane--negotiations with Egypt, of course--might be renewed next week? In my opinion, there are signs pointing to this, but I might be wrong.

[Hammer] At this moment there is nothing that I can say other than what is known. That is to say, that at its next meeting the cabinet will probably decide about whether to continue the talks. I believe that this depends on certain things which have to be clarified because, basically, we have a great desire to continue the talks and not sever the contact that has been opened with Egypt. On the other hand, the atmosphere that has been created, the preconditions that we have been called upon to meet have become impossible. In my opinion, the existence of a Military Committee without the existence of a Political Committee is not right. At any rate, the information that will accumulate during the week--perhaps through the mediation of a U.S. Government representation--will certainly give the government, toward next week, sufficient material to be able to decide on the issue. I do not think that things are clear at this moment. At any rate, I would say that I do not know about them.

[Ben Porat] Can we assume that there will be a decision--perhaps a positive decision--at the next cabinet meeting?

[Hammer] You can assume--although why should I prophesy what will happen in a few days--almost certainly that the cabinet will deal with the matter and discuss it. As to what it will decide, I do not know.

[Ben Porat] I thank you. I am handing the microphone to my journalist colleagues from "Gentlemen, the Press." They are sitting in alphabetical order. Each represents a different newspaper. Each will announce himself and the name of his paper. Please.

[Levav] 'Amos Levav from MA'ARIV. I would like to continue with politics but I will spice it with education. My question, Mr Minister, is why did you not turn up at the cornerstone-laying ceremony at Shilo, despite the fact that you promised to do so and why has the budget for the archeological delegation there not been transferred as yet?

[Hammer] First of all, this is something very interesting. I have to repeat why I did not appear in scores of places yesterday. It was 15 Shevat [Jewish New Year for trees when it is customary to hold tree-planting ceremonies] and I had planned to participate in several events out of the many to which I was invited, both as a minister and as minister of education.

I had a clear commitment to appear at two events: one, a national convention of Ministry of Education supervisers, which was devoted to revealing my plan for aims and targets in education, and the other was a Gush Emunim convention of Elqana, Mashah and Pe'erim in which thousands of people participated and where I was to be the main guest. I told the people in Shilo that I would try to go to all the events that I promised to go to and try to get there as well because, in principle, I would have gone. In the end, things took longer than planned, and I could not participate in the three events. Why should I have to explain? I asked that it not be made public in advance. It was almost certain that I would not manage to arrive. Why did I not arrive and why should that become a problem? I do not know, but that is how things are here.

[Levav] It was an interpretation. Zevulun Hammer's nonarrival at Shilo was interpreted by the public as, let us say, a reservation or hesitation.

[Hammer] Well, this is an opportunity to say that it was not a reservation, nor a hesitation. That is to say I think we should settle in Eretz Yisra'el, of course. This is part of the arrangement, as far as I understand it, in Judaea and Samaria. Of course, as far as timing is concerned and with respect to locations, I have my own positions. If you want, we can discuss them.

[Ben Porat] I would like to ask another political question. From what you said about Shilo I inferred something. You said, of course, I demand settlement in Eretz Yisra'el, in Judaea and Samaria. Do you have reservations about settlement in Sinai?

[Hammer] I would put it this way: There are twooparts in the question. I think that when we speak about an Israeli proposal for autonomy for Judaea and Samaria, we are reaching a situation in which we intend that the competition over Eretz Yisra'el will, to a great degree, take place in the field, in life. There will be an effort by both nations to live in Eretz Yisra'el and, therefore, part of my understanding of a settlement in Judaea and Samaria, with the granting of autonomy, is connected with our setting as a national goal great and important plans for Jewish settlement in Judaea and Samaria.

Should we build 30 small settlements or 3, 4 or 5 large settlements? This is a matter for discussion. They have greater significance, greater logic and they should be built in the right places. It must be a national goal, a national plan by national measures. I believe that this was the intention of the Israeli Government when it thought about granting autonomy without creating a Palestinian state out of this, and also that it is not giving up our settling in Judaea and Samaria despite its not declaring sovereignty there for the time being, that's one.

As for Sinai, my position is that the region of the Rafah approaches, from the point of view of its settlements, should be a security belt between Sinai, Gaza and Israel. The boys--the families--who went there were fulfilling a national mission par excellence. The issue that they are dealing with is a real issue and important. It is not imaginary. The proposal that we made to Egypt about sovereignty over the whole of Egypt [as heard] is a very far-reaching proposal, in my opinion, and it is understandable from the Egyptian point of view--say that you want to reach an understanding with the Egyptians, that you agree with much pain to a very complex situation with respect to the settlements in the approaches--but I certainly support the fact that these settlements should not be sentenced to die or peter out, and we have to make an effort that these settlements--and we intend that they remain there--will exist as they should. [sentence as heard]

What I want to say is that I do not know what will come of the negotiations with the Egyptians. I really want them to reach a situation from which we will achieve peace. Like all the people of Israel, we have a burning desire for peace. However, I do not know if, for the time being, the matter depends on various formulas that we might achieve, or are the Egyptians saying, both openly and secretly, both in the long term and in the short term, are the Egyptians saying: Gentlemen, we are giving you peace and in return give us--get out of your airfields and settlements, get out of all of Judaea and Samaria and introduce Palestinian self-determination? Of course, if this is the case a Palestinian state will arise there within a short time. As soon as the Syrians see that anything goes, then with respect to the Golan Heights they will submit a request that we pack up and get out of the Golan Heights. The same goes for Jerusalem.

If the Arabs--that is, the Egyptians--are referring to this, then I cannot see how we are going to be able to achieve a settlement with them. That is to say, if the intention was that what was unachievable by other means be achieved by the very proposal of peace, which is very important and far-reaching in my opinion--but for everything to be achieved by our endangering our security to the extent that we become a shrivelled-up country dependent on the favors of the Arab armies, and so forth--I think that this would be problematical.

I am not inclined toward making provocations or what might appear to be a verbal provocation, on either side, or toward creating a rumpus over nonsubstantive issues. But as for the important issues--that is to say, if I am called upon to say where we should invest the national effort now--a lot of dialog on the peace issue, efforts to arrive at formulas which both sides can live with--yes. Not to offend each other--yes. To take care about the other's honor--very important. But we should not lose sight of the main thing, which is, gentlemen, there are some places which we cannot vacate. This is how we should act. When, how, that's another issue. Noisily or quietly, that's another issue. However, with respect to substance we should know what we are seeking.

KNESSET GROUP FORMED TO BAR REMOVAL OF SETTLEMENTS

TA251253Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Jan 78 p 6 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Bizur]

[Text] Knesset members from various factions representing the settlement movement have established a group that will function within the Knesset on the public and political levels to prevent the removal of any of the settlements established in the territories.

The group convened yesterday and comprises MK's Yigal Kohen, Pesah Grupper, Mikha'el Daiksell (Likud); Dani Rosolio, Aharon Yadlin, Yehezqel Zakay, 'Amos Hadar, Shoshanna Arbeli-Almozlino and Imri Ron [Alinement]; and Eli'ezer Avtabi [MAFDAL].

They met yesterday with representatives from all the settlement movements and from the agricultural center. Representatives from settlements in the Rafah approaches, the Jordan Valley and from the Golan Heights also participated. The representatives from the settlements demanded that in the peace agreements Israeli sovereignty be insured over all settlements established in the territories. The group of Knesset members decided to act to strengthen all settlements in the territories to prevent their removal.

HA'AREZ: ISRAELI CABINET DIFFERS ON NEGOTIATIONS

TA241233Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 24 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] The cabinet's unanimous vote the day before yesterday--to postpone for the time being the departure of the Israeli delegation to the Military Committee in Cairo--does not reflect the cabinet members' real attitudes.

What transpired from private talks with cabinet members yesterday is that there are differences of opinion among them regarding the continuation of contacts with the Egyptians.

Not all the ministers equally evaluate Egyptian public statements and their weight in the negotiations. Consequently, not all of them share the gravity with which the prime minister views those statements.

Messrs Yiga'el Yadin and 'Ezer Weizman are among the ministers who contend that one should take into consideration the Egyptian mentality and not take public releases too seriously.

Those ministers believe that the fact that As-Sadat and Begin are using different language in their respective countries renders even substantial statements imprecise and perhaps exaggerated in proportion when translated into Hebrew and Arabic.

The prime minister, on the other hand, contends that anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish Egyptian statements should not be lightly dismissed.

Several ministers stressed to this correspondent yesterday that the decision to adopt the prime minister's proposal--to postpone the departure of the delegation to the Military Committee--came because the move had been described as merely temporary.

HA'AREZ: AL-JAMASI WANTS TO MEET WITH WEIZMAN

TA251146 Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 25 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By political correspondent 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] In the past few days Egypt has been examining the possibility of conducting an informal meeting between Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Egyptian War Minister 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi. This has been learned from reliable sources.

The Egyptian feelers came after the cabinet's decision on sunday to postpone the departure of the Israeli delegation to the Military Committee. The HA'AREZ correspondent points out that it appears that a renewal of Israeli-Egyptian dialog is not expected before the next cabinet meeting.

The Palestinian clause in the proposed declarations of principles that was formulated the day before yesterday by Minister Moshe Daysn, legal adviser to the government Baraq and Roy Atherton, Alfred Atherton [as published] has been submitted to Egypt but, as yet, no reaction from Cairo has been received. Yesterday, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Atherton and his aides met with the legal adviser to the government, Aharon Baraq, and Foreign Ministry legal adviser Me'ir Rosenne and further polished the Palestinian clause.

MA'ARIV Report

TA2511472 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Text] Egyptian War Minister 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi has appealed to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, proposing a meeting to discuss all the issues which had begun to be discussed during Mr Weizman's visit to Egypt as head of the Israeli military delegation. The answer sent to Cairo on Monday said that the proposed meeting could not take place before a "few days."

It has been learned that Al-Jamasi's appeal was not made through the American mediators but via members of the Israeli military delegation prior to the return of most of them to Israel in the wake of the cabinet's decision at its meeting on Sunday to suspend the military talks with Egypt.

It was believed yesterday that the defense minister might leave for Cairo on the weekend. However, in answer to a question, it was reported this morning that it is almost certain that the cabinet, at its coming meeting on Sunday, would approve the return of the Israeli delegation to the Military Committee deliberations and that the defense minister together with the other members of the delegation, including Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur, will leave for Cairo at the beginning of next week.

Maj Gen Avraham Tamir, who has remained in Cairo, is continuing his contacts with the Egyptian military in preparation for renewing the talks.

WEIZMAN LEAVES SKELETON DELEGATION IN CAIRO

TA2413002 Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 24 Jan 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Several cabinet members were divided in their opinion whether to leave Maj Gen Avraham Tamir in Cairo until the Military Committee resumes its talks, and only late the day before yesterday did Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman instruct Tamir to stay in Egypt at the head of a small group of Israelis.

The initial proposal was that following the Israeli Government's decision to postpone the departure of Israel's delegation, either the whole group staying in Egypt should be recalled or only technicians left. This proposal had, among others, the support of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

At first, Major General Tamir was instructed to prepare for departure. Later Mr Weizman again contacted Tamir, told him that the initial decision had been changed and that he was to remain in Cairo. It has been reported that Mr Weizman from the beginning was in favor of that proposal. One other senior officer is staying with Major General Tamir, Col Ya'aqov Heykhal, from the planning division.

SPLIT IN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE AVERTED

TA2415402 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The split in the Democratic Movement for Change [DMC] has been prevented. The DMC leadership and Knesset members reached an understanding regarding the regulations of the Knesset faction and the reciprocal relations between the DMC ministers, the faction and the movement institutions. This was agreed today at a meeting of the DMC Secretariat and its Knesset faction.

Our correspondent for party affairs learned that a talk was held yesterday between Ministers Yadin, 'Amit and Tamir, on the one hand, with MK Amnon Rubinstein, on the other. It was agreed then that new elections will be held shortly in the DMC faction for all positions, including those of the faction executive and its representation in the Knesset committees.

BEGIN TO VISIT U.S. FOR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

TA250725Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin is to visit the United States at the end of April. Announcing this last night, Cabinet Secretary Arye Na'or said Begin would be making the visit to attend Israel's 30th anniversary celebrations. [Jerusalem POST in English on 25 January reports Begin's visit will be from 30 April to 7 May]

WEIZMAN MAY VISIT UNITED STATES NEXT WEEK

TA241717Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jan 78 TA

[Text] It appears that Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will visit Washington at the end of next week. Mr Weizman postponed his trip to the United States because of the possibility that the Military Committee deliberations may be resumed in Cairo at the beginning of the week. Our political correspondent has learned that even if these deliberations begin, Mr Weizman will stay in the Egyptian capital for a few days and will later depart for Washington since the procurement matters require immediate attention.

U.S. ARAB STUDENT ARRESTED AS TERRORIST MEMBER

TA212002Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Jan 78 TA

[Text] A student of Palestinian origin, a U.S. citizen, was arrested today on the order of the Tel Aviv district court. He is accused of being a member of a hostile organization and of having contacts with a foreign agent. His name is (Sami Ben-'Ali Isma'il). Our correspondent reports that the student is accused of having trained in a camp of the Popular Front in Libya the middle of last year under the guidance of the terrorist (Tayasir Qub'a). While he studied at the University of Michigan he was active in distributing the organ of the Popular Front among Arab students and also helped to raise contributions. The student's father lives in Ramallah.

BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH, EEC TO DISCUSS AREAS OF COOPERATION

BK241408Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 24 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The presidential adviser for commerce, Mr Saifur Rahman, has said that the European Economic Community Commission and Bangladesh can collaborate in the industrial sector. He was talking to the visiting EEC delegation which called on him in Dacca yesterday.

The adviser said that there is also good scope for expanding the cooperation in the economic, technical and commercial fields. He explained to them the village oriented development program launched by the government. He also apprised the delegation of the utilization of EEC assistance.

The leader of the delegation, Mr (Robert Waltley), expressed the hope that the meeting of the Bangladesh-EEC joint commission will be fruitful. He said that the EEC would consider matters relating to trade promotion and joint ventures in the fields of leather, marine fisheries and jute.

The 2-day meeting between Bangladesh and the EEC will begin in Dacca tomorrow.

INDIA

IRISH PRESIDENT GIVEN WARM WELCOME ON ARRIVAL IN DELHI

BK250909Y Dehli Domestic Service in English 2830 GMT 25 Jan 78 BK

[Text] A warm and ceremonial welcome was accorded to the president of Ireland, Dr Patrick J. Hillery, and Mrs Hillery, on their arrival in New Delhi today on a 2-week visit to India. They were received at the airport by the president, Mr Sanjeeva Reddy and Mrs Reddy; the prime minister and his cabinet colleagues; the three service chiefs and members of the diplomatic corps.

Welcoming the distinguished guests, Mr Sanjeeva Reddy spoke of the close and friendly ties between India and Ireland. He quoted the former Irish president, Mr De Valera, as saying that the great moral forces of the world are with India and Ireland. We must use them to the full, but we must never forget to ultimately rely upon ourselves if we are to be successful. These words of Mr De Valera, Mr Reddy said, are valid even today.

The Irish president said the two countries have all along pursued similar objectives on international matters, particularly in search for peace and economic well-being of the peoples of the world.

Dr Hillery, who is the first Irish president to come to India, said India has a special place amongst the friends of Ireland. Its progress is of special interest to the Irish people. He pointed out that India has made a significant contribution to mankind through the genius of her people and her arts and culture. It has also made enormous strides in the socioeconomic advances of her people. Dr Hillery had earlier visited India a decade ago as a minister.

The vice president, the prime minister and the external affairs minister will call on Dr Hillery later today. Mr Sanjeeva Reddy is hosting a banquet in honor of the distinguished guests tonight.

PAKISTAN

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ROMANIA

BK240933Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Pakistan and Romania signed a protocol today for cooperation in the fields of scientific research and technological development between the two countries. The protocol has been signed in accordance with the agreement on scientific and technological cooperation signed between the two countries in Bucharest in 1975.

Under the protocol they have agreed to facilitate the exchange of scientific personnel between those organizations of the two countries which are interested in joint cooperation programs. They have also agreed that any inventions resulting from the activity carried out within the joint concern and development projects shall be deemed to be joint property and shall be used by both parties according to the legal provisions enforced in each country.

The protocol comes into operation immediately and will be valid for 2 years--1978-79.

The Pakistani-Romanian joint governmental commission on economic, technical and scientific cooperation ended its 5-day deliberations in Islamabad today. It reviewed the progress in the implementation of the agreements signed between the two countries in July 1973 in Islamabad and in October 1976 in Bucharest. The commission noted with satisfaction the progress made in implementing its earlier decisions. The commission also expressed the desire to further expand the scope and dimension of technical and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of an agreement to set up a cement factory in Kohat. Both sides agreed that a delegation of the Pakistan State Cement Corporation will visit Bucharest next month to finalize arrangements for this project. Several other projects in about six different sectors are also being reviewed for implementation later. It is expected that these projects will be finalized at the next session of the commission. These include a national electronics institution, a heavy electrical complex and a seed production farm.

SRI LANKA

SOVIET NEGOTIATOR ON INDIAN OCEAN ARRIVES IN COLOMBO

BK241425Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Jan 78 BK

[Text] A high-ranking Soviet official, Mr L. I. Mendelevich, who is Moscow's chief negotiator in the U.S.-Soviet talks on demilitarization of the Indian Ocean, held wide-ranging discussions last Friday [20 January] with Sri Lanka's acting foreign minister, Mr Ranil Wickremasinghe, at the foreign office in Colombo.

Mr Mendelevich, accompanied by another Soviet negotiator, arrived in Sri Lanka last week after talks in New Delhi with Indian foreign minister, Mr Vajpayee. Mr Mendelevich, according to the foreign office sources, briefed Mr Wickremasinghe on the progress of the U.S.-Soviet talks on Indian Ocean demilitarization and on the Soviet standpoint at the forthcoming meeting in New York of the preparatory committee for the special UN session on disarmament.

Sri Lanka, as chairman of the nonaligned group, had already initiated consultations among the 25-member nonaligned coordinating bureau. The bureau is expected to formulate a unified approach for the nonaligned group to take up at the preparatory committee meeting, which is likely to be held some time next month.

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